

Israeli MKs to meet PLO

TEL AVIV (AP) — Four members of Israel's Knesset (parliament) will meet Tuesday with PLO representatives in a bid to ease tensions between the two sides, one of the parliamentarians said Tuesday. The conference, entitled "A European Initiative for Peace in the Middle East," was initiated by several members of the European Parliament. It will be held in Paris on January 12-13. Two of the members of the Knesset who plan to attend, Leva Eliaz and Ora Namir, belong to the Jewish wing of the mainstream Labour Party. The two others are Yair Hirschon, leader of the socialist Mapam Party, and Shulamit Aloni, head of the Citizens Rights Movement. "We have to speak to the Palestinians directly and reach peace with them through compromise," Eliaz told the AP. "The more we speak, the better." Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Tuesday reiterated Israel's opposition to talks with the PLO. "We are convinced that establishing contacts, or worse, extending recognition to the PLO, cannot possibly promote peace," Arens told members of the foreign press association.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

Bomb threats plague flights

GENEVA (AP) — Bomb threats forced unscheduled Alitalia and Tunis Air and Air India landings at Zurich, Milan and Bali airports and delayed Pan Am and Dan Air departures from Geneva during the past 24 hours, police said Tuesday, confirming local press reports. The Alitalia DC-9 was on a flight from Paris to Venice when Munich air controllers told the pilot and anonymous bomb threat had been made and the pilot decided to land at Zurich's Kloten airport. Following an extensive search, the flight was cleared to continue at 0100 a.m. Tuesday (midnight GMT). The Tunis Air Boeing 737, on a flight from Geneva to Tunis, took off Tuesday morning following a 11-hour stopover at Milan's Malpensa airport and after bomb disposal experts determined no explosives were aboard. An Air India Boeing 747 with 351 people aboard made an emergency landing Tuesday in Denpasar, Bali, after it received a warning from the Singapore control tower that an explosive device had been planted, an airport officer said. Flight AIC-465 received the warning while on its way from Sydney, Australia, to Singapore.

Volume 14 Number 3976

AMMAN WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 1989, JUMADA AL AWWAL 25, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Crown Prince, Rifai outline results of development seminars, follow-up work

King reviews Jordan's drive for Arab unity, solidarity, joint action

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday reviewed Jordan's position vis-a-vis the current Arab situation and the Kingdom's keen interest and aspirations in arriving at a unified Arab stand, enhancing Arab solidarity, strengthening pan-Arab institutions and boosting collective Arab action.

The King was speaking at a meeting at the Prime Ministry attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Cabinet members and senior government officials. During the meeting, Crown Prince Hassan briefed the King on outcome of recently held seminars on development of various governorates. Rifai explained the government's view on recommendations

issued by the seminars and presented to the Cabinet by the planning minister. Some of these recommendations have already been implemented while others are in the process of implementation. The third part of the recommendations cover Jordan's development programmes for the year 1989.

Earlier Tuesday, the Crown Prince chaired a meeting at the Prime Ministry of Cabinet members and senior officials and explained the importance of adherence to the Jordanian economic charter contained in an address delivered by His Majesty King Hussein to a recent comprehensive development conference. The charter constitutes a guide for economic and development work until the year 2000, the Crown Prince said. The Crown Prince highlighted the importance of dialogue among citizens in the various regions and officials at all levels to live up to the expectations of the next phase, which should be characterised by serious and realistic studies of Jordan's resources and means of adjusting to new situations. Prince Hassan also called for promoting the spirit of participation and responsibility at various levels and an assessment of all the requests submitted to the government, taking into consideration Jordan's actual needs and those of the Kingdom's economy as a whole.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday confers with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker at the Prime Ministry (Petra photo)

Army destroys 3 Gaza homes, prepares for more demolitions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers wrecked a home in the occupied Gaza Strip and sealed off rooms in at least two other houses after detaining residents suspected of involvement in the Palestinian uprising, the army said Tuesday. It was the second straight day that the army has destroyed or sealed Palestinian homes, and Arab news reports said three other Palestinian families in Gaza were told to empty their homes of belongings, apparently because of plans to demolish the buildings.

In the West Bank, soldiers shot and wounded two Palestinians, including an eight-year-old boy, in clashes that erupted in and near the city of Ramallah, reports and hospital officials said.

The boy, Hassan Abu Safiya, was struck in the back after troops opened fire to disperse stone and bottle throwing protesters in the village of Beit Sira, said an official at Muqassas hospital in Jerusalem.

The other wounding was of a 45-year-old man who was struck in the leg during a similar clash in Ramallah, a local hospital official said.

The house demolitions were part of a fresh crackdown on Palestinian activists that included expulsions of 13 Palestinians to Lebanon Sunday and the tearing down of the houses Monday.

An Israeli newspaper said the army also planned to crush a

recent spate of stoning attacks by Palestinian teenagers and children by threatening adult relatives with detentions, searches and fines.

The house demolition carried out Monday night was in Jabalya refugee camp, said the spokesman.

Reports said that troops destroyed three rooms of the home and sealed a fourth and that it belonged to the father of Bakr Mustafa Baroud, 24, who was detained three months ago.

At least a room each in two other nearby homes were sealed, the army spokesman said.

The army said the demolitions and sealings were done because residents were accused of throwing firebombs at troops and attacking Palestinians who failed to comply with calls from underground leaders of the Palestinian

uprising. Since the nearly 13-month-old uprising began, the army has demolished or sealed 131 houses in the West Bank, according to the Palestinian human rights group Law in the Service of Man. Thirty-eight have been reported torn down or sealed in Gaza. The Haaretz daily reported, meanwhile, that the army was considering measures such as detaining adult relatives, conducting wide searches and imposing fines to reduce a spate of stoning attacks in the occupied territories.

The newspaper said that stonings by minors who cannot be jailed account for up to 85 per cent of recent incidents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinians staged a commercial strike in Nablus, the West

(Continued on page 3)

Marrakesh talks Sahara breakthrough

RABAT (R) — Polisario guerrilla leaders were due to meet Morocco's King Hassan for the first time Tuesday in what diplomats described as a major breakthrough for peace in the Western Sahara conflict.

The meeting in Marrakesh will be the first official contact between the two sides since the desert war began 13 years ago next month. Diplomats in Rabat said the talks about a U.N. peace plan would be devoted to details of a ceasefire, the exchange of prisoners and ways to ensure the fairness of a referendum on the territory's future.

A Polisario spokesman in Algiers told Reuters by telephone the guerrilla delegation would be led by Mahfoud Ali Beiba, prime minister of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) proclaimed by the Polisario in February 1976.

It will include SADR "defence minister" Bachir Ghali, commander of the guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of the former Spanish colony. The guerrillas declared a unilateral truce six weeks ago pending the talks with the king.

Bachir Mustapha Sayed, second in the Polisario hierarchy, will also attend the meeting. He represented the guerrillas at three rounds of indirect talks chaired by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York and Geneva.

After his talks and the visit by a U.N. mission to the disputed territory in 1987, Perez de Cuellar drafted a peace plan which both sides accepted in August.

It proposes a ceasefire followed by a referendum to let nomad tribes in the sparsely-populated region choose independence or integration with Morocco, which has long claimed sovereignty.

The Polisario said their first visit to Morocco was in response to an invitation from King Hassan. He said in an interview with the French magazine Le Point last month: "The doors of the palace are open... I am ready to discuss things but not to negotiate."

The Polisario spokesman said the delegation were to arrive on a special flight from Algeria and have talks with the king Tuesday evening, probably returning to Algiers Wednesday.

King Hassan has always rejected Polisario demands for direct negotiations. But analysts in Rabat said the monarch's distinction between discussions and negotiations was probably a diplomatic nicety and the talks represented a breakthrough.

In his interview with Le Point the king said: "If things go normally it (the conflict) ought to be terminated between now and the beginning of the summer."

Morocco says it has 80,000 troops in the territory on defence lines along the Algerian and Mauritanian borders. They have enabled it to control four-fifths of the desert, which is rich in phosphate deposits.

The Polisario says there are 200,000 Moroccan troops and auxiliary forces stationed there and wants them reduced to a symbolic force garrisoned along the defence lines.

PLO probe into Pan Am bombing said under way

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat began investigating the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 several days before Washington told the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) it would welcome information, a PLO official said Tuesday.

He said the PLO chairman was keen to bring those responsible to justice and last week sent a circular to his offices worldwide asking for any information on the disaster.

"Yasser Arafat began the investigations shortly after the crash. He began them independently before Saturday's meeting in Tunis," the official, a senior PLO representative in the Middle East told Reuters.

The White House said Monday the U.S. ambassador in Tunis

met with a top PLO official and told him the United States would welcome any information on the bombing of the plane.

The request was made during an informal meeting held on Saturday at the U.S. embassy in Tunis between Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and PLO Representative Hakam Balaoui. White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said.

"The ambassador took the opportunity to mention that the United States would welcome any information the PLO is able to develop concerning the Pan Am tragedy," Popadiuk said.

"This is in line with what we have already publicly stated and is true for the PLO as well as anyone else who may have information on the bombing," he

said. According to other administration officials, Balaoui agreed to pass on the request to Arafat and the meeting had been requested by Balaoui, principally to enable the PLO leader to introduce himself to Pelletreau.

Other administration officials said neither side viewed the Saturday meeting as part of the formal dialogue that began three weeks ago after Arafat renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist — conditions that had been set by the United States before there could be any contact with the group.

"This was not a specific request for assistance. It just came up

(Continued on page 3)

Peres' economic plan faces increasing attack

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres faced growing opposition to his austerity plan Tuesday from members of his own Labour Party and the Labour-aligned Histadrut trade union federation.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin again attacked a proposed cut of nearly \$200 million in defence spending — a key element in Peres' plan to slash \$550 million from the 1988-89 budget.

The hawkish Labour defence minister, a long-time Peres rival, told Israel Radio the budget did not cover the cost of army actions to combat the year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Under no circumstances can we cut our order of battle, the number of fighters, the number of tanks, the number of vessels of our navy. We cut them severely in the last four years."

"Most of the cuts will have to be done from our orders for research and development work and other purchases from Israeli institutions and industries," Rabin told the radio.

"This by itself will make the army... lack advanced items like arms and military hardware for the future, and will bring about the firing of thousands of people from the military industry," he added.

Howe urges Israel to match PLO move

KUWAIT (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe urged Israel Tuesday to show moderation and match the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace overtures.

Sir Geoffrey spoke at a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to Kuwait, the first leg of a six-state tour. He met earlier Tuesday with the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

He was scheduled to leave later Tuesday for Saudi Arabia. His 10-day tour also will include the United Arab Emirates, Oman, North Yemen and Djibouti.

Howe said his talks with the Kuwaiti leaders covered "a lot of bilateral and regional issues."

He disclosed that he was urging Arab Gulf states to help search for extremists who bombed Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland on Dec. 21, killing all 259 people on board.

"As you know we have just experienced a dreadful attack on a Pan Am airliner over Scotland. I know that our friends in the Gulf will do all they can to help us identify those responsible, for there must be no safe haven for people responsible for such wicked actions," he said.

Howe said that Deputy Foreign Secretary William Waldegrave, will visit Tunis next week and "hopefully he will have the opportunity to meet with PLO leaders."

Arens: Israel ready to suffer isolation

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens complained Tuesday that European countries were not consulting Israel about Middle East peace steps and said Israel was ready to suffer isolation from the world for the sake of its own security.

In his first news conference with foreign correspondents, Arens renewed Israel's criticism that the U.S. decision to hold talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was damaging the fight against international terrorism.

He emphasised that negotiating with the PLO could not further the peace process but refused repeatedly to outline what plans Israel has for reaching peace.

Arens also made the following points:

— Israel is not prepared now to withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because

"pre-1967 borders are not defensible borders."

— He expects better relations with the Soviet Union and said resumption of full diplomatic links would open the way for talks between the two on all matters. Improved relations with Egypt will be a priority, he said.

The new foreign minister said Israel does not approve of the European Economic Community's (EEC) plan announced Monday to start a Middle East peace initiative by encouraging an international conference on the region.

"I think it would be better if prior to undertaking any kind of initiative, the members of the European Community were to meet with us, were to consult with us, were to coordinate with us," Arens said.

"I think there is probably no reason why European countries should not listen with consider-

able attention to our opinions, to our feelings, to our evaluation of the situation," he said.

Arens, 63, became foreign minister with the formation of Israel's new government Dec. 22. He is a member of the Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, which has consistently opposed an international Middle East peace conference.

In a prepared statement, Arens went out of his way to praise the Kremlin's new openness towards Soviet Jewish emigration and offered the Soviet Union a full dialogue if it resumed diplomatic relations.

"There seems good reason to expect significant improvements in the relationship between the two countries," he said.

He did not refer to Moscow's terms for restoring diplomatic ties — the convening of an international Middle East peace confer-

ence. The 12-nation EEC would do better to consult and coordinate with Israel before launching initiative, he said.

European advice to Israel to talk to the PLO might be well intentioned but it endangered Israeli "security" and would not advance peace, he added.

"We should not be expected to take any step that might decrease the sense of isolation... if they are steps that would endanger the state of Israel," he said.

Speaking before the foreign press association, Arens was asked several times about Israel's plans for making peace. But he would only say Israel was reviewing its options and would not make any proposals public until all steps were approved by the government.

"This is a process that could take some time," he said.

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Iraq warns Iran against resuming search of ships

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Baghdad said Tuesday that Iran would breach the Gulf war ceasefire if it searched Iraqi-bound vessels through the waterway and Iraq would retaliate appropriately.

Al Thawra newspaper, organ of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, said in an editorial Baghdad warned Iran against such tactics and reaffirmed Iraq "has the potential to silence any flagrant acts by the Tehran regime."

Iran's navy commander, Rear-Admiral Mohammad Hossein Malekzadeh, said Sunday his country claimed the right to inspect ships in the Gulf despite the Aug. 20 ceasefire in its war with Iraq.

Al Thawra said any Iranian inspection of ships bound for Iraq would constitute "flagrant violation of the ceasefire and U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 ordering such a ceasefire and a halt to all military activity on the ground, sea and in the air."

It said the Iranian naval commander's comments did not comply with international law.

At the same time (Iraq) will retaliate appropriately for any action taken by Iran," the newspaper added.

"Iraq requests U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar once again to take immediate measures to make the Iranian authorities understand their commitments towards the ceasefire."

Iran regularly stopped and searched ships in the Gulf before the ceasefire, confiscating what it regarded as war material bound for Iraq.

It intercepted a British supertanker on Dec. 12 in what appeared to be a misunderstanding, but so far has not challenged the Iraqi cargo vessels through the Gulf.

Iranian letter

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has sent a letter to the U.N. secretary general asking for "effective measures" to ensure Iraqi troop withdrawals from Iranian territory. The Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday.

The agency said the Dec. 29 letter asserted that the troop withdrawals were the "most

prominent and urgent element" in implementing Resolution 598.

"Regrettably, this has not been materialised in the past three rounds of talks due to the introduction of extraneous elements by Iraq, a derailment that has to be corrected without further delay," IRNA quoted the letter as saying.

U.N.-sponsored peace talks started in Geneva five days after the Aug. 20 ceasefire but stalled immediately. Two more sessions failed to bring any progress, but the ceasefire in the war is still holding.

Perez de Cuellar has said he will visit Iran and Iraq this month to speed up the peace process, but no dates have yet been set.

In addition to the ceasefire, Resolution 598 called for troop withdrawals to internationally recognised borders and exchanges of prisoners of war.

Iran rejects Iraq's demand that sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, the southern border between the two countries, be renegotiated and the waterway immediately cleared of silt and war wreckage. Iran insists the troop withdrawals must come first.



Militiamen armed with machine-guns battle in Beirut

Amal-Hizbollah battles rage despite mediation

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian troops tried Tuesday to enforce a truce in the Beirut militia war as battles raged for control of the last bastion of Hizbollah (Party of God) in South Lebanon.

"We are trying to keep the two groups away from each other by evacuating militiamen from some buildings that have been turned into concrete barricades," a senior Syrian officer told Reuters.

The Syrian bid to end the bloody feud between gunmen of the Hizbollah and the Amal militia followed a night of running battles that tapered off in the early hours of the morning.

War-weary residents of the southern suburbs were cynical of the Syrian efforts to enforce a ceasefire.

"We would like to see all the militiamen out of the suburbs. Once the Syrians turn their backs the fighters will return to their positions," said one resident, Suzanne Hayek.

Masked Hizbollah and Amal gunmen were still entrenched behind sand barricades in four areas of the suburbs that have been the centre of the close-quarter fighting for four days.

A Syrian officer told Reuters the situation in the suburbs was critical and very difficult to solve.

"How can we end the battles when brothers and relatives are fighting each other?" he asked. "Militiamen often hide in the homes of their relatives, who have no choice but to protect them although the fighters are the source of their suffering," he said.

for Hizbollah, financed and supported by Iran.

Hizbollah emerged in 1984 to challenge Amal's leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites.

Iran had planned to send its deputy foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Larijani, to Beirut to help mediate a ceasefire, according to radio stations in west Beirut. But Larijani flew to the Soviet Union Tuesday, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

It was not clear if the trip to Moscow was connected to the fighting in Lebanon. It also was not known if Tehran would send another envoy or wait for Larijani's return.

A police spokesman said the two militias fought from house to house in Ghobeiri after nightfall Monday, when Hizbollah's fighters in black head-bands overran a police station in the sprawling residential district.

The fighting in south Beirut and South Lebanon tapered into sniper fire at daybreak, said the spokesman.

"It's not a cease-fire. They're simply tired and need a rest," the spokesman said. "They will be at it again anytime."

Six ceasefires called by the Syrians have failed to curb the hostilities.

The Syrians have 7,500 troops in west Beirut in addition to the contingent in the slums. They also maintain some 25,000 troops in northern and eastern Lebanon under a 1976 mandate from the Arab League to halt the civil war, now in its 14th year.

Amal sources said the accord stipulated that the PLO would end military and political support

Nasser nephew surrenders, defends himself in court trial

CAIRO (Agencies) — The nephew of the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser made a dramatic return to Cairo Tuesday to defend himself in the trial of a revolutionary group accused of killing Israelis in Egypt.

Gamal Shawki Abdul Nasser, charged with aiding and withholding information on members of the Egypt's Revolution organisation, attended the supreme state security court after arriving by plane from London.

Nasser, wearing a suit and dark overcoat, appeared calm. He faces imprisonment if found guilty.

Prosecutors have demanded the death penalty for 11 of 19 others accused in the case. Among the 11 is Khaled Abdul Nasser, the eldest son of the late president, who lives in self-exile in Europe.

Defendants were held in courtroom cages installed for politically sensitive trials within the walled exhibition grounds of the Cairo suburb of Nasr City.

The chief defendants are accused of committing "hostile acts against two foreign countries, which could have exposed Egypt to a break in relations with them, by killing and plotting to kill some diplomats and nationals of the United States and Israel."

Egypt's Revolution claimed responsibility for shooting dead two Israeli embassy employees in 1985 and 1986, wounding an Israeli diplomat in 1984 and wounding two U.S. embassy security men in 1987.

The indictment of Khaled Abdul Nasser has made the case particularly sensitive because of his father's prestige as a national hero and pan-Arab leader in the 1950s and 1960s. He died in 1970.

Defence lawyers have sought to put Egypt's current foreign policy on trial, particularly its adherence to the 1979 treaty with Israel.

At a November session, lawyers urged the court to call as witnesses Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, former Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid.

"We want them to explain to us our foreign policy and strategy and tell us who are our enemies," one lawyer said.

Defence lawyers argued that the defendants were justified in shooting Israelis because they were enemies of the Arab World.

The alleged leader of the Egypt's Revolution group, 47-year-old Mahmoud Nouredine Soliman, has said he was proud of his actions and has denied the charges against Nasser's son.

Soviet envoy meets Mujahedeen in Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov has had two rounds of talks with Afghan rebels in Tehran and a third session is scheduled to follow, a rebel source said Tuesday.

In Pakistan, government officials and rebel sources said Vorontsov would arrive there Wednesday for further talks with Afghan guerrillas based in Pakistan.

Moscow, pulling its forces out of Afghanistan, is trying to work out a smooth transition with some role in future government for Afghan President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party.

A member of the eight-party Afghan Mujahedeen coalition in Tehran, reached by telephone, told Reuters rebel leaders were discussing their negotiations so far with Vorontsov.

He gave no details of the talks. "There might be a third meeting (with Vorontsov) today," he said, adding that coalition spokesman Mohammad Karim Khalili would announce the results later.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said Vorontsov met Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati before his first session with the rebels Monday.

It said Velayati urged Moscow to speed up its pullout from Afghanistan so the Afghan people could set up a government of

their choice. "Afghanistan's independence should not be damaged under any circumstances and the withdrawal of Soviet forces should not pave the way for the penetration of forces from another country," Velayati said.

IRNA said Vorontsov described the Iran-based rebels as "one of the important sides" in the Afghan issue. He met them at their headquarters in Tehran.

Pakistani officials said Vorontsov is expected to stay in Islamabad for two to three days and meet Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. He is also expected to meet Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Under last April's U.N.-mediated Geneva accords Moscow must complete the withdrawal of more than 100,000 of its troops from Afghanistan by Feb. 15.

An Afghan rebel official said Vorontsov would meet the main seven-party guerrilla alliance during his trip. But he did not give a date for the meeting.

Last month, Vorontsov, Moscow's ambassador in Kabul, held the first direct talks with a delegation of the Pakistan-based guerrilla alliance in the Saudi Arabian summer resort town of Taif.

His talks with Pakistani officials will cover bilateral issues. They will also discuss the establishment of a broad-based Afghan government, the Islamabad daily the Muslim reported.



Yuli Vorontsov

On his arrival in Tehran, Vorontsov repeated a Soviet call, already rejected by the rebels, that they accept a new ceasefire extended by Najibullah.

Vorontsov also met former Afghan King Zahir Shah in Rome last month and invited him to join talks for a broad-based government.

But several rebel groups have said Zahir Shah, who has been living in exile in Rome since a 1973 coup, can have no role in Afghanistan's future.

Clashes between Afghan troops and guerrillas killed 74 people and wounded 33 Monday, three days after Kabul offered the unilateral ceasefire, Afghanistan's state radio reported.

Also Monday, two key guerrilla leaders criticised the Soviet Union for reportedly trying to give a future government role to Zahir Shah.

Afghan rebels to form assembly

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Afghan Mujahedeen guerrillas announced plans Tuesday for an assembly to govern Afghanistan and confirmed they would hold further talks with the Soviet Union.

Rebel leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi told a news conference the assembly, or temporary shura, would be selected by the seven parties which make up the Pakistan-based alliance fighting the government in Kabul.

"Time is too short to hold elections in Afghanistan so we have decided to select a temporary shura made up of commanders, intellectuals, political leaders in Iran and others," said Mojaddidi.

He said the assembly would

convene in two or three weeks, time and make preparations to administer Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, due to be completed next month.

He added that guerrilla commanders would make up 50 per cent of the assembly and all parties would have an equal share of appointments.

Mojaddidi, who took over the revolving chairmanship of the alliance two days ago, confirmed the rebels will hold talks in Islamabad later this week with Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov, who is ambassador to Kabul.

"The agenda has been set by the Mujahedeen and it includes our demands for the immediate and total withdrawal of Soviet

troops and advisers and their puppet government," Mojaddidi told reporters.

"The shura will have the capacity to hold an administration in Afghanistan," Mojaddidi said. "The regime cannot survive for a long time. We can establish a government in all areas including the capital."

Asked whether any party had invited former king Zahir Shah to sit on the shura, Mojaddidi said: "Let's see if anyone will invite him."

Mojaddidi said representatives of the eight-party group based in Iran would arrive at Mujahedeen headquarters in Peshawar soon to discuss the forthcoming meeting with Vorontsov.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:30 Koran

14:40 Programme review

14:45 Children's programmes

14:50 Programme on plants

14:55 Football match

15:00 Cairo news message

15:05 Arabic series

15:10 Local programme

15:15 Common mistakes

15:20 Programme review

15:25 News in Arabic

15:30 Arabic series

15:35 Wrestling

15:40 Varieties programme

15:45 News summary in Arabic

15:55 Programme continued

PROGRAMME TWO

17:20 Champs Elysees

17:30 News in French

19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr

06:32 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:48 Dhuhr

12:46 'Asr

16:49 Maghreb

18:11 'Isha

CHURCHES

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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

The country is still under the effect of the cold front. So it will be rainy and

snowfall is expected in the hilly areas. Winds will be northeasterly moderate

to fresh. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with scattered rain showers.

Winds will be northerly moderate to

fresh and seas rough.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 8, Amman 18. Humidity readings:

Amman 96 per cent, Amman 33 per cent.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Amman 18. Humidity readings:

Amman 96 per cent, Amman 33 per cent.

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Amman 96 per cent, Amman 33 per cent.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Amman 18. Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:

Dr. Mahmoud Allan 894866

Dr. Naji Tayem 824544

Dr. Majed Saeed 881605

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shar 791405

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

AMMAN:

Dr. Mahmoud Allan 894866

Dr. Naji Tayem 824544

Dr. Majed Saeed 881605

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shar 791405

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

AMMAN:

Dr. Mahmoud Allan 894866

Dr. Naji Tayem 824544

Dr. Majed Saeed 881605

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shar 791405

First pharmacy 661912

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 601111

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 198, 891228

Blood Bank 778303

Highway Police 843602

Traffic Police 639141

Public Security Directorate 656000 / 685111

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Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 707111

Telephone information 12

Overseas Calls 17

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdullah Hospital 661101

Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 648111, 636381

RF Flight Information 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akleh Maternity, J. Amn 642412/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

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Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akleh Maternity, J. Amn 642412/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

AMMAN:

2 depressions to hit Jordan; snow expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — Severe weather conditions similar to those witnessed on Dec. 26 are expected to affect Jordan Wednesday and Thursday according to forecasts by the Department of Meteorology.

A department official said that a cold depression centred over Cyprus was moving eastward and would bring heavy rain storms to Jordan and other parts of the Eastern Mediterranean region, while a second depression accompanied by several atmospheric fronts will follow in its wake bringing snow to high regions and lower the temperatures drastically.

Rain fell in Amman and other parts of Jordan Tuesday and the Public Security Department (PSD) reported heavy fog in some parts of the capital and on the mountainous regions of Ajloun, Salt, Arida and Jerash.

The Meteorology Department said that in the 24 hours preceding Tuesday noon, the Queen Alia International Airport received 23 millimetres of rain water, the highest rate in the Kingdom, followed by Salt 12 millimetres and Ajloun, nine millimetres.

Last week's storms brought snow mostly to Amman and to high regions in the Kingdom and the rain water inundated roads and flooded homes. The PSD and the Civil Defence Department teams, along with municipal workers were involved in rescuing people from floods and moving them to safer areas.

Snow which fell in the Kingdom on Dec. 26 prompted the Ministry of Education to postpone Tawjihi examinations for that day. The mid-year examination sessions is now due to end by Jan. 9.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday delegated director of his office Michael Hamarneh to convey his condolences to Al Fakhouri family over the death of the late mother of Tawfiq Shaker Fakhouri (Petra).

2 MORE POST OFFICES IN MAFRAQ: The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications has decided to open two post offices at Jaber Al Sharhan and Rafat towns in the Mafraq Governorate. Director of the governorate's Telecommunications Department said that the two offices will start offering services during January, and will serve an estimated 3,000 inhabitants. (Petra)

SPECIAL PATROLS: The Audit Bureau, which serves as watchdog over government departments' spending and conducts official expenditure, announced Tuesday that it will arrange for special patrols to monitor the use of official cars after office hours. Government officials are not allowed to use their departments' cars for personal benefit. (Petra)

BOY SCOUTS VISIT MA'AN: A total of 33 Boy Scouts representing education schools in various regions of the Kingdom Tuesday visited Ma'an Governorate. The scouts, accompanied by their supervisors and local officials, toured tourist and economic projects, and later visited the ancient Nabatean city of Petra. The tour was organised by the Ministry of Education. (Petra)

JD 36,000 LOAN FOR ALLAN: Allan town in Balqa Governorate has requested a JD 36,000 loan from the Cities and Villages Development Bank. The loan will be used to open streets and help carry out a re-organisational plan for Allan. (Petra)

FARMERS GET LOANS FROM ACC: The Agricultural Credit Corporation's (ACC) office in Mafraq last year provided loans totalling JD 890,000 to local farmers. A corporation official said that 380 farmers benefited from the loans using them to promote animal husbandry, to drill artesian wells, to set up poultry and livestock farms, to buy fertilisers and purchase animal feed. (Petra)

Jordan prepares to mark Arbor Day

ZARQA (Petra) — A meeting held in Zarqa under the chairmanship of Governor of Zarqa Eid Al Qatranah decided to organise the Arbor Day celebration on Jan. 22.

The celebrations will include the planting of 10,000 saplings on the site of the new Zarqa Police Department, by the motorway. Festivities were also determined for Dali and the Sarah baths on the same day.

In Irbid, the governorate also prepared a programme for the celebrations, to include the planting of a large number of saplings in Irbid Forest and the municipal Public Park.

The celebrations' committee in Ma'an held a meeting under the chairmanship of the governor, in which it was decided to hold festivities at the sites of the Electricity Authority Housing Complex and the Aqaba Iron Company's Employees' Club, on the Jan. 16.

Similar celebrations were also

decided on for Wadi Mousa, Shobak and Husseinieh, and a committee was formed to include members of a number of institutions, with the aim of planting trees on the sites of mosques, schools, universities, charitable organisations and other public places.

The governor stated the importance of widening the green belt by planting more trees. He invited all citizens to take part in the festivities and to plant and maintain trees on a regular basis.

The director of agriculture in the governorate outlined a project to plant over 300,000 seedlings and 41,000 saplings in nurseries and by the roadsides. 44,000 saplings had been set aside for Arbor Day to provide for possible demands from citizens and institutions.

Nearly 50,000 fruit and olive saplings were available at nominal prices to members of the public.

16th Asian conference on advertisement begins Feb. 18

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 16th Asian conference on advertisements will be held in the Pakistani city of Lahore during the period from Feb. 18 to Feb. 22, with the participation of a large number of advertising staff from most Asian countries, including a number of Arab countries.

To ensure the largest participation in the conference, Sayed Imran Ahmad and Sayed Jawid

Iqbal from the conferences headquarters Monday held a press conference at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, during which they spoke about topics for discussion and the activities to be carried out during its convocation.

The conference was attended by the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan, media representatives and advertising agents.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wastit Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.
- ★ The Jordanian plastic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madanghah and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of historical photos and documents at Al Ahli Club which exhibits photos for the late King Abdullah and His Majesty King Hussein besides exhibiting documentary photos and films on Al Ahli Club.

BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Ala'a Centre, Hittin Refugee Camp.



King chairs top-level review

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Tuesday chairs a top-level meeting at the Prime Ministry where he reviewed Jordan's position on various Arab issues and His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai briefed him on the outcome of recent seminars on regional development in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

Turkish minister arrives for talks with Khayyat on religious affairs

RAMTHA (Petra, J.T.) — Turkish Minister of Religious Affairs Saifuddin Al Yaziji arrived in Amman by road from Damascus Tuesday on a week-long visit to Jordan.

His talks with the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat were expected to cover facilities offered to Turkish Muslims en route to Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage season.

Turkish and Syrian pilgrims normally cross Jordanian terri-

tory by land on their way to Mecca and Medina, and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs had set up a pilgrims housing estate for them near the northern city of Ramtha. The pilgrims city there is similar to that near South Shuneh set up for the benefit of the pilgrims crossing into Jordan from the occupied Arab territories.

Yaziji said in a statement upon arriving in Ramtha that his talks with Khayyat will also cover means of bolstering cooperation

in religious affairs. Yaziji was welcomed at the border post of Ramtha by the district governor and Ministry of Awqaf officials as well as Turkey's consul general.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs normally supervises travel arrangements for pilgrims from Jordan and the occupied Arab territories and provides facilities and services, as well as religious guides and health services to Muslim pilgrims from other countries.



Hindawi opens Iraqi cultural week

Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Tuesday inaugurated the Iraqi Cultural Week at the Royal Cultural Centre, which is organised by the Iraqi embassy press department on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of establishing the Iraqi armed forces. The week-

long activities include an art exhibition for the Iraqi artist Salam Madanghah, children's drawing exhibition and a book exhibition. The event was attended by the assistant secretaries general of the Ministry of Education, Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein (Petra photo)

Geographic centre to supply 275,000 copies of school atlas

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) will supply the Ministry of Education with 275,000 copies of school atlas for the benefit of students in government schools, according to an agreement signed by the Ministry of Education and the RJGC Tuesday.

The atlas which will be available for the 1989-1990 school year will be used by students in the preparatory stage after the sixth grade. The agreement was signed by

the centre's Director Oqlah Duheimat and the Ministry of Education's Secretary General Munther Al Masri.

Earlier the RJGC pledged to supply government ministries and their affiliated departments with maps that would help planners and policy makers in charting development projects.

The RJGC which was set up with the help of a French team, conducts aerial photography and uses remote sensing and other techniques in the process of preparing maps.

Remote sensing which constituted the theme of a 1987 conference in Amman is now being employed also in the process of exploring natural resources and water in Jordan.



Walid Amaireh

Jordanian traveller in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — The Jordanian traveller Walid Amaireh Tuesday arrived in Cairo as part of his 8-year around-the-world tour, by the end of which he would have walked 50,000 kilometres.

Amaireh who started his trip on Oct. 26 has so far visited 57 Arab, African, European and Asian countries and met with a number of personalities and officials in the countries he visited.

Amaireh's trip is designed to boost Arab unity, to contribute to removing the obstacles and difficulties encountered by Arab citizens upon moving from one country to another and to rewrite the history of the Arab region.

Seminar discusses most proper means to exploit water resources in south

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A seminar to discuss the water situation in Jordan was held at the University of Jordan Tuesday during which several working papers were reviewed and ideas exchanged on the most proper means of exploiting water resources at the Sahel Al Suwwan and Mudawwara regions in southern Jordan.

The seminar was organised jointly by the university's Water Studies and Research Centre and the university's Centre for Strategic Studies.

Dr. Bassam Abu Ghazaleh, the university's vice president for scientific faculties' affairs, opened the seminar with a speech, underlining the importance of the subject of water resources in areas which are now being utilised for agricultural purposes in southern Jordan. Lands in these areas, which include Disi, Suwwan and Mudawwara, have been leased to local companies to be exploited for the production of cereals and to increase animal wealth in Jordan.

Despite the scarce water resources in Jordan, the south and

eastern regions are being exploited to produce food and ensure food security for the nation depending largely on underground water resources, Abu Ghazaleh noted.

The participants, who represented Jordanian universities, Ministries of Water, Planning, and Agriculture, as well as the Royal Scientific Society and the private sector, discussed subjects related to water resources and the nature of soil in the southern regions of the country, as well as research projects to increase production and prospects for the future.

The government started leasing state-owned land to local companies in 1986 to be developed and used to produce cereals and

lean meat for which there is a great demand on the local market.

Nearly 200,000 dunums of land were leased at Sahel Al Suwwan and Disi to local firms which paid 100 fils per dunum as nominal fees each year.

The nominal fee was fixed in order to encourage people to undertake similar projects and produce more crops, according to government officials, who said the two southern regions had abundant supplies of underground water which could be used for irrigation purposes.

Jordan has been importing 450,000 tonnes of wheat annually, nearly 75 per cent of the country's total requirements, and the decision to exploit unused land in southern Jordan with the use of underground water was taken to help ensure food security for the Kingdom.

In the past year, the government decided to take measures to exploit lands in Al Azraq region for agricultural purposes in view of the successful exploitation of semi-desert regions in the south of Jordan.



Exhibition of historical documents opens

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Tuesday inaugurated at Al Ahli Club an exhibition of historical documents and photographs, organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives in cooperation with Al Ahli Club. The four-day exhibition includes photos for

the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, photos for His Majesty King Hussein, documentaries on the Al Ahli Club activities. Princess Alia also inaugurated the club's library. The event was attended by a number of cabinet members and government officials (Petra photo)

APC makes JD 6m profit in 1988

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) last year collected JD 6 million profits on its sales of Potash that went to more than 20 nations around the world, according to an APC official quoted by Al Rai daily Tuesday.

He said that the profit, made for the first time since the company started operations in 1982, were made on the sale of 1.3 million tonnes of Potash at a total value of \$113 million.

He said that the APC plants near the southern tip of the Dead Sea was expected to produce 1.4 million tonnes of potash in 1989.

Earlier estimates by APC

Director Ali Nsour put the total revenues at \$110 million and a profit of \$12 million for 1988 operations.

Nsour expressed hope that by 1990 APC will be able to make profits sufficient to compensate for all losses incurred by the company between 1983 and 1987, and to distribute dividends of nearly 20 per cent on the profits to the shareholders by that year.

Nearly 70 per cent of Jordan's potash is being marketed in Asian countries such as India, Japan, Indonesia, China, Malaysia, the Philippines as well as Australia and New Zealand. While the rest is being marketed in Europe,

Africa, North and South America, Nsour said.

He said in Europe, France and Italy are the major importers of Jordanian potash.

Over the past three years, the potash industry was faced with a deep crisis brought about by the decline in prices because of the increase in supply on the international markets, causing considerable financial losses to most potash companies and potash producers, Nsour noted.

He said the Jordanian government and the Arab Mining Company, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Libya hold shares in the company.

Army destroys Gaza homes

(Continued from page 1)

Bank's largest city, to protest against the house demolitions in nearby Balata and Sunday's expulsion, residents said.

Freij retracts call

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij withdrew his call for a truce in the uprising Monday night, saying recent Israeli army actions, particularly the expulsions, ruled out peace.

Freij said his call for a U.N.-sponsored one-year truce aimed at bringing about an international Middle East peace conference had been rejected by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Since the PLO considers my suggestion premature, I fully respect its decision," Freij told Reuters.

Asked whether Palestinian activists had threatened him to make him retract the truce idea, the mayor said: "I was not really threatened, but the response was not encouraging. My friends recommended that I think it over again."

In a statement broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo Monday, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat warned that any "Palestinian leader who proposes an end to the intifada exposes himself to the bullets of his own people."

Freij said Israeli military actions, particularly the expulsion of 13 Palestinian activists Sunday, proved Israel had no interest in a

truce.

Because of this, Freij said he continued to support uprising. A key jailed nationalist leader, Faisal Hussein, also praised the idea of a truce to allow for elections and peace talks in a prison conversation with an Israeli leftist parliamentarian last week.

Without specifying which groups, Freij said some Palestinian circles had misunderstood his truce idea as a call for a unilateral end to the uprising.

"I never had that in mind at all," he said. "I made my suggestion in good faith hoping it would lead to the convening of an international peace conference."

ICRC assails expulsions

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross Tuesday addressed a new appeal to Israel to cease expulsions of Palestinians and put an end to "all other practices" violating international humanitarian law.

A press release issued at the ICRC headquarters said the Jan. 1 expulsion of 13 brought to 48 the total expelled in the past 12 months. It noted that the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War expressly forbids such expulsions from occupied territories.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross stresses that the events in the occupied territories have resulted in several hundreds of victims since December 1987," it said.

PLO probe

(Continued from page 1)

during the discussions between the two men," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

A PLO leader was quoted Monday as accusing Israel of responsibility for the crash of the airliner.

The Qatari News Agency quoted Salah Khalaf as saying the Israeli secret service Mossad was behind the attack.

A man claiming to be an Arab has told Hungarian officials that a pro-Iranian organisation blew up Pan Am Flight 103, the official Hungarian MTI news agency said Tuesday.

The caller, who spoke English, also warned Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) through the Hungarian Interior Ministry.

"On Dec. 31 an English-speaking man declaring himself an Arab phoned from Hungary to the central inspection of the interior ministry," MTI said, quoting a ministry spokesman.

He claimed that the Pan Am Boeing 747 was blown up by a pro-Iranian organisation in revenge for the shooting down of an Iran Air Airbus by the U.S. warship Vincennes in the Gulf last July, killing 290 people.

In Moscow, a Soviet spokesman said Tuesday his country was ready to help find those responsible for downing the Pan Am jet.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1974

جورن تائمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Turning a pointed back

ISRAEL'S adherence to its calculated and well-articulated policy of gunfire, expulsions and demolitions in an attempt to quell the Palestinian uprising is not the kind of signal that the international community, including the Arab World, was waiting for in 1989. Barely a day had passed after the New Year that Israeli occupying forces escalated violence against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli troops knocked down homes Monday of persons suspected of hurling home made bombs at an Israeli military patrol. This came on the heels of the expulsion of 13 Palestinians also accused of heading popular committees steering the intifada. On both occasions, the expulsions and demolitions were carried out and timed for maximum effect. What is worse is that such tightening of Israel's oppressive practices came in the wake of Palestinian peace overtures that won international acclaim as genuine, bona fide and legitimate.

The cycle of violence in the occupied territories was anticipated to end after the Palestinian side stretched its arm for durable and honourable peace. Instead, Israel embarked on yet another aggressive course heading for ever more escalation with a view to strangle the Palestinian uprising. Surely, it must have dawned on the aging Israeli leadership that the answer to the Palestinian uprising is not fire and blood. One would have expected that the Israeli leadership of all people would be the first to reckon with the reality of the new situation in the occupied territories by yielding to reason and common sense and by reciprocating the PLO's fresh start with an equally fresh start from the Israeli side. And let it be clear and known to the Israelis that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are not about to end their struggle until and unless they attain their freedom and honour. If the Israelis seek an end to the Palestinian intifada it is not going to be by way of expulsions and demolitions. There is a much wiser and saner approach and it lies squarely in engaging the Palestinian side through the PLO in a dialogue and negotiations leading to the resolution of the Palestinian question once and for all.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday voiced many countries' hopes that the Bush administration will free itself from ties and bonds that had stopped the Reagan administration from taking serious action to solve the Middle East question. Hopes attached to the Bush administration are so great and the new man in the White House is called on to undo many of the complications created by the former government in the past eight years, the paper said. The Arabs, it noted, hope that the Bush administration will reverse all U.S. policies pertaining to the Palestine problem and will recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Let us hope that the PLO-U.S. dialogue, which began last month, will constitute the first step towards a more progressive and fruitful relationship between the two sides along the march towards a settlement, the paper added. It said that the Arab countries can only remember with great pain and frustration the Reagan administration under whose term many tragedies befell the Arab people including Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and the raids on Iraq and Tunis as well as Israel's continued crimes in the occupied Arab territories.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily focuses attention on the coming Arab summit meeting which he hopes will convene to find a solution to the Lebanese problem. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that slowly and gradually Lebanon's image is fading away from memory since its people continue to carry on a fratricidal war, and are unable to elect a president who can take hold of the reins of his country. Rimawi notes that Lebanon's seat at the coming summit will remain vacant since there is no president agreed on by the warring parties, and therefore no quick solution can be found except through a consensus and agreement that can come from the Arab League Council meeting which is due to convene in the coming week. It is regrettable to see Lebanon which had served as a haven for free people, disintegrating. Therefore all efforts must be made through the Arab League to breathe life back into the beleaguered state.

Al Dustour daily comments on British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's interview in which he said that his government was now taking a balanced and positive stand towards the Middle East question, and that the British government was showing more and more interest in finding a solution for the Palestine problem. The paper noted with satisfaction Howe's remarks that the PLO has proved to be adopting a constructive stand and that the U.S.-PLO dialogue has now opened the way for a peaceful settlement. The paper also commended the British minister for voicing his country's backing for the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, and his call on the Israeli government to show flexibility and opt for peace.

Sawi Al Shaab daily commented on Jordan's development march which, it said, received its guidelines from development seminars chaired by Prince Hassan. The Prince, acting upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, has been spearheading the government's efforts towards a comprehensive development through such seminars considered as mini-parliaments, where concerned parties maintain dialogues and open discussions in a free and candid atmosphere, the paper noted. It said that for development to succeed and bear fruit, active cooperation should be made on the part of all concerned sectors.

Palestinian diplomacy affects alliances in Lebanon

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

BEIRUT — Palestinian diplomacy has ended Lebanon's bloody "camps war," but analysts say it is likely to prompt a confrontation between Israel and Amal, the country's mainstream Shi'ite Muslim movement.

"It is likely to be a black winter in South Lebanon because Israel will hold Amal responsible for Palestinian operations," said an independent security official.

For four years, Amal and supporters of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat have been locked in a bloody war of attrition around refugee camps across Lebanon.

At least 2,500 people were killed and thousands wounded in the skirmishes. Many of the casualties were civilians.

The feud diverted Palestinian energies away from Israel's northern border, while Amal actively curbed Palestinian guerrilla operations in areas under its control.

Most of Lebanon's 350,000 Palestinian refugees are concentrated in the southern refugee camps of Rashidiyah, Ain Al Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh.

Amal positions around the camps ensured that Palestinian fighters were largely confined to defending the settlements, only a few miles from Israel's self-declared security zone.

Now the Amal-PLO feud has ended, the analysts say, and one reason has been Arafat's proclamation of a Palestinian state.

"Proclamation of the Palestinian state, now recognised by some 90 states, has forced Amal to seek a rapprochement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation," one PLO source said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The two sides announced a truce last week and signed an 11-point agreement to avoid further clashes in the South.

Political observers said the first consequence of the Amal-PLO accord was an Israeli air strike on Amal positions in the southern village of Sultaniyah.

Israel charged Amal with facilitating Palestinian infiltration attempts in the area.

Israeli air raids on Palestinian and pro-Iranian Lebanese commando targets in Lebanon are commonplace, but Israeli operations against Amal have been rare.

The analysts said Amal had concluded that further confrontation with Arafat was a lost cause in the face of widespread backing for Palestinian peace moves.

For their part, Arafat's Palestinian supporters in Lebanon now favoured a truce with Amal because further bloodshed would serve to discredit their conciliatory style of diplomacy.

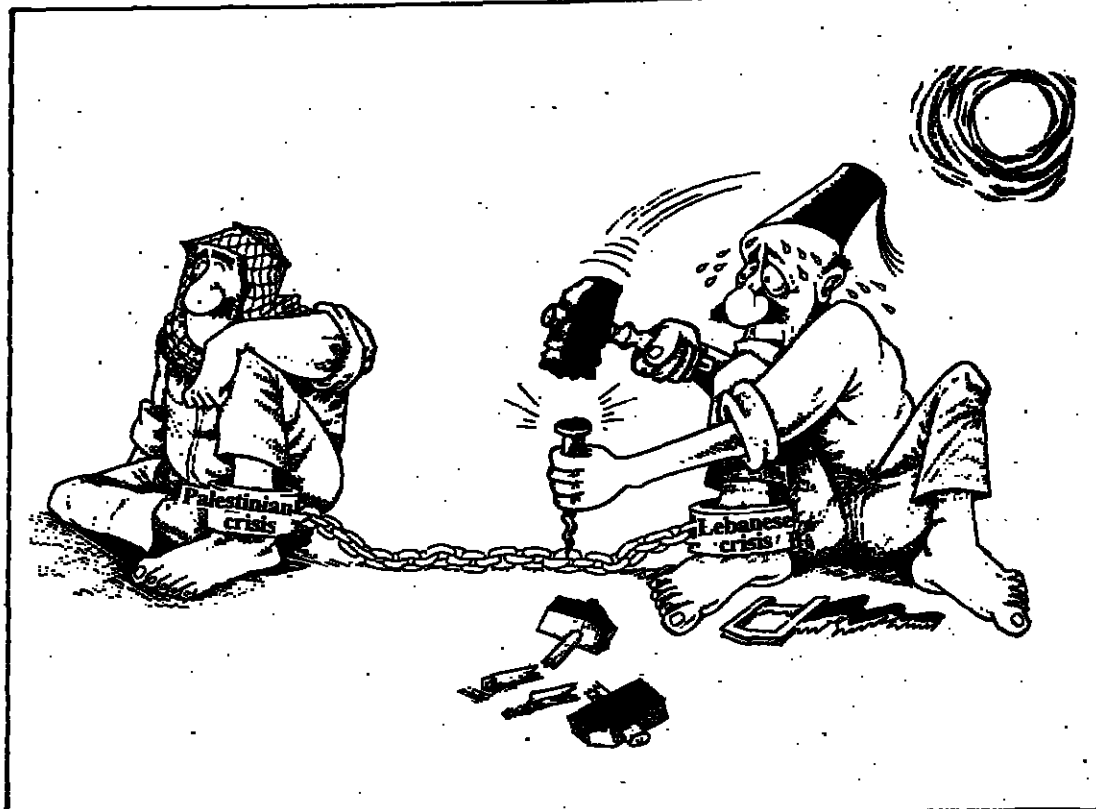
The so-called "camps war" erupted in Beirut in 1985, with Amal demanding the disarming of Palestinians.

An important factor in the Amal-PLO pact was the rivalry between Amal, armed and funded by Syria, and Hizbollah, the Party of God, backed by revolutionary Iran.

Vying for control of Lebanon's estimated 1.5 million Shi'ites, the two Shi'ite organisations have battled in southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs since last April.

An Amal source said the Amal-PLO accord stipulated that the Palestinians cease any further military or political cooperation with the pro-Iranian militants.

"Amal is striving to win Arab support (in its conflict) against Hizbollah," said a Palestinian source.



Iran, Hizbollah's source of funds, has sharply criticised Arafat's acceptance of the right of Israel to exist alongside a Palestinian state.

GCC faces the challenge of peace

The Gulf war was a source of great worry and a massive financial burden for the six states of the Gulf not involved in the conflict. With the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran in force, the six countries comprising the Gulf Cooperation Council find that their peacetime goals face an entirely new set of challenge.

By Hazem Mahmoud

MANAMA, Bahrain — Almost a year ago, senior Arab diplomats in the region were drawing peacetime scenarios and, in candid discussions, not liking what they foresaw: a mountain of reconstruction bills, new debts and social discontent in response to the austerity programmes by governments.

The challenge of peace has been met with a pragmatic boldness that may prove critical in guaranteeing stability of the Gulf in the postwar era that may stretch into the next decade, according to senior diplomats and observers. This pragmatism was in evidence during the December meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The GCC, which includes neither of the two ex-combatants, Iraq and Iran, but comprises the six other states of the Gulf (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), rejoiced when the United Nations succeeded in enforcing the truce this summer. Then it got down to work on the manifold implications of the event.

The Manama Declaration, issued on Dec. 22, after the latest summit of the six member states' leaders, stressed the goal of integration in almost the same vein as Europeans have been talking about 1992, the year when members of the European Community hope to complete the union, coordination or compatibility of many different systems in the political, economic and social fields.

There is one important difference, however. The two countries which have cast the longest shadows on the region's politics, i.e. Iraq and Iran, are not direct participants in the GCC's programme of integration. Instead they are the bystanders, according to one observer, who should be able to benefit immensely from developments in the GCC region "if they play their cards right."

The GCC is seeking higher growth through lower barriers to trade and other economic activity. Rationalisations of customs tariffs on imports in the region, freer travel and greater guarantees for investments by GCC constituents — individuals or institutions — are some of the fundamental objectives.

In the nine summit conferences held so far, the December 1988 meeting was the first where economic integration talks were taken seriously by all concerned. While the war lasted, the idea of economic integration was met with scepticism even though political integration seemed desirable.

Political analysts believe that the idea of economic integration has caught on with time. "Initially, of course, the GCC was a response to the war," said one observer. "But the so-called new realities, most particularly the similarity in experiences of the constituents in the oil sector, have given economic integration new credence."

The GCC was established on May 25, 1981 at a time of heavy fighting between Iraq and Iran and amid indications that the war would spread to the Gulf. The

ceasefire between Iraq and Iran has restored peace but it has also brought forth a new realism that recognises the problems but seems undaunted by them. "Let's not call them problems, I don't like the word," said one senior observer. "I prefer to see them as challenges."

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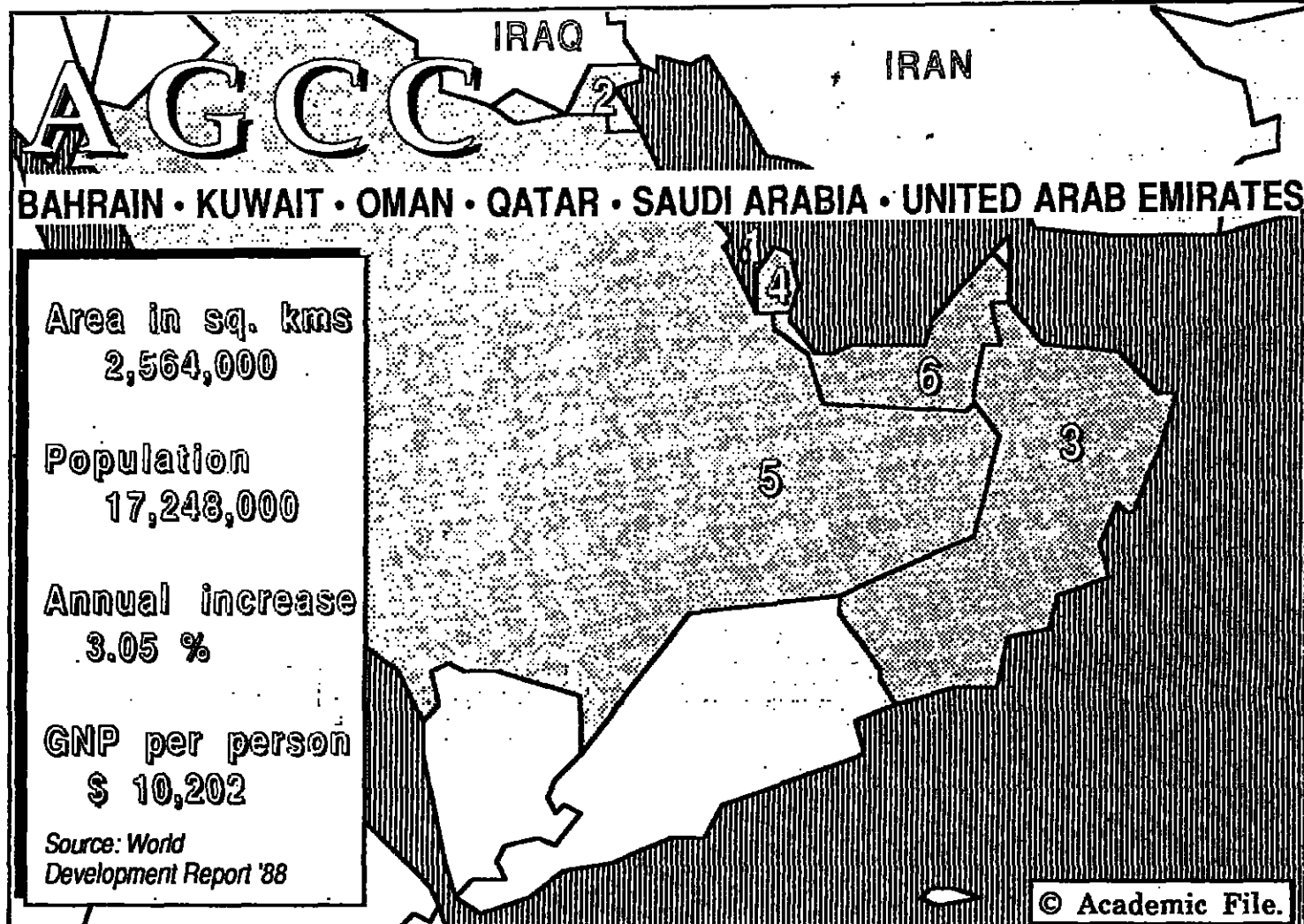
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The GCC was established on May 25, 1981 at a time of heavy fighting between Iraq and Iran and amid indications that the war would spread to the Gulf. The



fears were not unfounded, as the subsequent years of some naval and some air warfare involving the non-combatants amply proved.

The pressures of the conflict at close quarters brought the GCC members together on matters of military coordination, internal security and political cooperation. In many respects the outcome of this cooperation was a revelation in itself for those involved, and it left an increasing number of officials convinced that if cooperation could work in military matters, it could in economic affairs as well.

Above all, experts believe, that successful cooperation gave the smaller states a sense of security that went a long way towards liberalisation. The political and social reforms in the member states are believed to have emanated largely from that sense of collective security.

However, the experts acknowledge that the GCC has embarked on a vast programme of integration that may continue into the 21st century. Although the member states share a common religion, similar political systems, economies based on oil and numerous other characteristics, in day-to-day terms they have not yet managed to coordinate policies or their implementation.

There is, in addition, the question of whether to include Iraq and Iran in a wider council. Iraq already participates in many of the Gulf activities, and Iran has quickly restored contacts with individual states since the ceasefire. Both countries share with the GCC states membership of several regional bodies.

In recent years Iraq has repeatedly indicated interest in joining. In May 1984, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told Kuwaiti journalists that "any time that you feel that Iraq is in the Gulf and that it is worthy of becoming a Gulf brother at any level of

cooperation, we shall study this."

The end of the war has been an unexpected boon to these "feelers." For example, the burgeoning business sector in the southern Gulf states, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, has been actively canvassing for a

major share of the reconstruction business in Iran and Iraq.

Once again, experts believe, necessity and pragmatism may become the chief propellant for greater integration within the GCC and between the GCC and its neighbours — Academic File.

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Istanbul Bazaar — a victim of inflation

The galloping inflation in Turkey has taken the pleasure out of shopping in one of the world's best preserved traditional bazaars — the Covered Bazaar of Istanbul, where little is cheap any more.

By Maryam Schiller

ISTANBUL — The man with the giant brass tea dispenser still clinks his glasses to announce his arrival but, in recent months, the light-hearted banter about Chernobyl-infected tea is not the only thing he's had to contend with.

Inflation has got his best customers worried. The merchants of the Covered Bazaar of old Istanbul, used to consuming endless cups of the tea and offering more to prospective customers, believe that a runaway increase in the prices of consumer goods in Turkey has thinned crowds in the ancient corridors or made them "hold their cash against their heart," as one put it.

Although each domestic price increase invariably coincides with a devaluation of the Turkish lira against the dollar and European currencies, the foreign shoppers still are left with a substantial residual effect on prices of the inflationary spiral.

Shoppers complain that "there's nothing that is cheap any more." But the merchants' argument is that the buyers' ex-

pectations are too high. "There are still plenty of bargains, though past is past," said one trader. "It won't ever come back."

Turkey is in the grip of a galloping inflation estimated by conservative experts to exceed 20 per cent. Some estimates put the inflation rate as high as 60 per cent. While some analysts believe that rising inflation is the "inevitable price" that Turkey must pay for growth, others believe the economy is out of control.

Those in the trade at Kapali Carsi, or the covered Bazaar, insist that they cannot remember a time when people have not complained about inflation, high prices of their goods or the worsening economy. "The shoppers almost always like to complain," said one merchant. "They think it helps them strike a bargain."

Increasingly, however, the merchants say, the talk of inflation has been accompanied by a "new breed" of shoppers — tight-fisted, discerning and usually unwilling to part with money.

Turkey produces some of the

best fashion wear east of Italy, featuring cotton, wool and leather as well as man-made fibres. Traditional crafts — carpets, marble and metal ware — are booming even though there has been a constant drain on artisan families, the result of the flight to the cities.

Turkish glass, crockery and cutlery still is cheap when compared with matching goods from eastern Europe. But when placed against the buying power of ordinary Turks the prices seem to have skyrocketed.

As tourism has risen, however, so has the shopkeepers' confidence. Prices at "tourist traps" like the Covered Bazaar have responded to greater numbers of shoppers and enhanced interest — due to wider publicity — among the foreign visitors. Now the trend may be rebounding on the market.

Some merchants' bitter view, fostered by press reports of mass tourism and how little it costs Europeans and others to get to Turkey these days, is that the majority of visitors are not in Turkey to shop, but only to get tanned.

"We used to have a different set of shoppers before," said one merchant ruefully. "They thought nothing of pulling out hundred-dollar bills or showing off their credit cards. Now we must give bargains on items as low as \$10. It's terrible."

For the determined traveller, unencumbered by concerns of credit cards or bulging wallets,



One of the busy entrances to the Covered Bazaar of Istanbul, which retains the old charms of the Ottoman capital — as well as a well-preserved inscription in Ottoman Turkish.

the bazaar remains a Turkish delight. It has no equal in the Middle East or eastern Europe in offering almost the perfect blend of architectural harmony and the colour and spice of a fast disappearing kind.

The bazaar comprises more than 50 alleys roofed by domes, almost 5,000 shops, 11 mosques, 19 fountains and a Turkish bath. In the old days the microcosm conjured up the image of a distinct town; now it is a welcome refuge from the pollution and

noise of a notoriously unruly traffic a few steps away.

Most of the buildings date back several hundred years and originally were allotted to separate professions, though the distinctions are gradually dissolving.

The bazaar has been damaged by fires and earthquakes but never closed to business. The "inflation" besetting Turkey at the moment, therefore, may be a temporary glitch in the long history of the bazaar — Academic File.

A mother's blood, a daughter's life

By John-Thor Dahlburg

YEREVAN (AP) — They were entombed in eternal night and their only food, a jar of jam, was gone. Tons of smashed concrete around them had become their prison. "Mommy, I'm so thirsty, I want to drink," cried four-year-old Gayanay.

Susanna Petrosyan, 26, says she was trapped flat on her back. A concrete block 50 cm. above her head kept her from standing. She wore only a slip, and it was horribly cold. Beside her lay the lifeless body of her sister-in-law, Karine, who died beneath the rubble one day after the December 7 earthquake levelled much of their city of Leninakan and others in northwest Armenia.

"Mommy, I need to drink," Gayanay sobbed. "Please give me something."

"I thought my child was going to die of thirst," Susanna said later, in recounting the ordeal while recuperating in a Yerevan hospital. "I had no water, no fruit juice, no liquids. It was then I remembered that I had my own blood." Her fingers numb from the cold, found a shattered glass. She sliced open her left index finger with a shard and gave it to her little girl to suck.

The drops of blood weren't enough. "Please, Mommy, some more. Cut another finger," Susanna remembers her daughter saying. She cut herself again and put her hand to her child's mouth, squeezing her fingers to make more blood come.

"I knew I was going to die, but I

wanted my daughter to live," Susanna said.

On the day of the quake, Susanna and Gayanay were driven by Susanna's husband, Gerikham, a shoe-maker, to the apartment building on Leninakan's Kamo Street where Karine lived. Susanna, a petite woman with thick black hair and curving eyebrows, wanted to try on a black dress with puffed shoulders that Karine had for sale.

It fit her perfectly. As she took it off, the fifth-floor apartment began to tremble, then shake violently. Now dressed only in a slip, Susanna grabbed Gayanay, still wearing a heavy winter sweater, and ran to the door. As she opened it, the floor opened under their feet and the 36-unit apartment building collapsed.

Susanna, Gayanay and Karine fell into the basement, with the nine-storey building crumbling around them.

Although trapped on her back in the dark, Susanna found a jar of blackberry jam that had fallen to the basement. On the second day of their ordeal, the day Karine succumbed to her injuries, she gave the entire jar to Gayanay to eat.

She found a skirt, perhaps the one she had tried on, and made a bed for Gayanay to lie on. Despite the bitter cold, Susanna took off her stockings, and wrapped them around her daughter to keep her warm.

As the days passed, and Gayanay's pleas for something to drink become more pressing, her mother remembered something

she had seen on television. "It was a programme about an explorer in the Arctic who was dying of thirst. His comrade slashed open his hand and gave his friend his blood," she said.

Losing track of time because of the unchanging darkness, Susanna doesn't know what day she cut open her fingers, or how many times she gave them to her daughter to suck. Gayanay cried that she wanted to go home. "I want to be back in my bed again, and see my daddy," she said.

"I lost all hope," Susanna said. "I was just waiting for death."

On December 14, the eighth day of their captivity, rescue workers opened a small hole that let a shaft of light into their prison. "We're saved," Susanna remembers crying.

Even at that moment, her first thoughts were for her daughter. "There's a child in here, be careful not to hurt her," she screamed as rescue workers trying to dig them out got closer.

Her husband was there, uninjured, and they tearfully embraced as Susanna was laid on a stretcher. They were rushed to separate hospitals in Yerevan, 100 kilometres away.

For four days, the little girl was in intensive care, hooked up to intravenous bottles that dripped glucose, albumen and other liquids into her parched body.

Doctors say both mother and daughter could be released in as little as a week, but differ about whether Susanna's blood helped keep her little girl alive.

France gears up for year-long party

By Simon Haydon

Reuter

PARIS — France kicks off a year-long party Jan. 1 to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, which toppled an absolute monarch and introduced people's power as a political weapon.

But while no one questions the significance of the events of 1789, plans for the bicentenary festival have been tarnished by political bickering over just how much celebrating should be done to mark one of France's most bloody periods.

The festivities appeared doomed to failure until earlier this year, when a new Socialist government pumped large amounts of money and enthusiasm into the project.

The Socialists replaced a conservative government, which acknowledged the importance of the event, but balked at dancing in the streets over mob revolt, the terrorising of aristocrats and the beheading of King Louis XVI.

Hundreds of events will take place around France in 1989 to mark the 1789 revolution, and a mass of gimmickry is flooding French shops as retailers seek to cash in on revolution fever.

Dolls, mock guillotines and even condoms coloured red, white and blue after the national flag are on sale.

On the more serious side, historians have reopened debate on the events leading up to and following the storming of the Bastille prison by a 900-strong mob July 14, 1789, and also on the execution four years later of Louis.

Bicentenary organisers say July 14 will be the climax of celebrations, when descendants of the Bastille stormers will march through Paris and an all-night ball will be held in the Place de la Bastille, where the stone-walled prison once stood.

Greeting balloons

The annual summit of leaders of the world's largest industrial nations will start on the same day in central Paris, and French President Francois Mitterrand has indicated he will also invite a large number of Third World heads of state.

Bicentenary organisers say celebrations will start Jan. 1, when Montgolfier hot-air balloons will be launched from all over France carrying greeting cards from any citizen.

In Paris, the balloons will take off from the Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine accounted for hundreds of aristocratic heads, including those of Louis and his wife Marie Antoinette.

Main historical celebrations begin May 5, when the imposing Palace of Versailles, west of Paris, where the monarchs lived, will host a re-enactment of the states-general procession.

The states-general, the 18th century's equivalent of parliamentarians, marched to Versailles to hear Louis demand a bigger effort to solve the country's disastrous economic plight which was causing famine and stoking discontent.

But Louis made no reference in his speech to their demands for

political reform, and the frustrated parliamentarians — locked out of Versailles by the king — formed their own National Assembly.

On July 14, after invading the military arms stores at the Hotel des Invalides, a mob made up of tradesmen, down-and-outs, soldiers and mercenaries marched on the Bastille, the symbol of repression of the masses.

Two hundred years later, two brand new buildings will be inaugurated July 14, one of them a grandiose opera house on the edge of the Place de la Bastille.

Historical differences

Organisers have promised "the biggest party in the world," from midnight July 14 until dawn, with music from the opera house.

About five kilometres away on the other side of Paris an equally new building will be the venue for various world leaders, including new U.S. President George Bush, to discuss global problems.

The Arche de la Defense, a massive cube hollowed out to form an arch, now dominates western Paris, presenting an unparalleled vista straight through the Arc de Triomphe, the Place de la Concorde to the new glass pyramid in a central courtyard of the Louvre art museum.

The leaders will meet on top of the arch, the first time it will have been used.

The final major festival is marked down for August 26, when the Revolutionary National Assembly adopted a declaration of human rights.

Plans to celebrate the revolution have sparked harsh arguments around France as politicians differ on the value of its lesson for the modern world.

In the northeastern town of Thionville, a battle is still raging between local Socialist and conservative councillors over whether a bust of revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre should be placed in the central square.

Communist Town Mayor Paul Souffrin, describing himself as "an old admirer of Robespierre" approved the project.

But right-wing parliamentarian Andre Lacroix condemned the project, likening Robespierre's revolutionary fervour to that of "an Ayatollah."

The national media has also been getting into the act. French television organised a mock trial of Louis XVI, with the verdict cast by viewers' telephone calls. More than 50 per cent said he should have been acquitted.

Hanover: Computer helping the handicapped

HANOVER (INP) — A computer centre has been opened in Hanover which — for the first time in the Federal Republic of Germany — intends providing jobs for handicapped people by means of EDP technology. The project which is a pilot scheme sponsored by the European Community (EC), is being run by a society devoted itself to the promotion of handicapped people.

The computer can represent a new chance for the handicapped to integrate themselves more easily into "normal" working life. There are almost seven million physically handicapped in the Federal Republic of Germany, including some 5.5 million seriously handicapped, whose capacity to work has been reduced by more than 50 per cent. A third of these people are below the age of 55. Only a few of them are able to earn their living on the basis of what they make working in a workshop for the disabled. Some handicapped people refuse to work in such a workshop in the

first place and want employment elsewhere.

This is where the computer centre wants to open up new ways and integrate EDP technology more effectively in the working world of the handicapped and train and employ disabled persons increasingly in "computer professions" (for instance, marketing, advertising, data processing). A printing shop connected to the centre expands the range of offers and in this way, enhances the competitiveness of the centre, which is required to finance its own activities. Proper training contracts are drawn up with the handicapped. The University of Hanover is showing a scientific interest in the project.

Training is initially concentrating itself on commercial and administrative jobs on a contractual basis, desk-top publishing systems and the development of hard and soft-ware specially for handicapped people.

Hilde Simeck



A computer can represent a new chance for the handicapped to integrate themselves more easily into "normal" working life.

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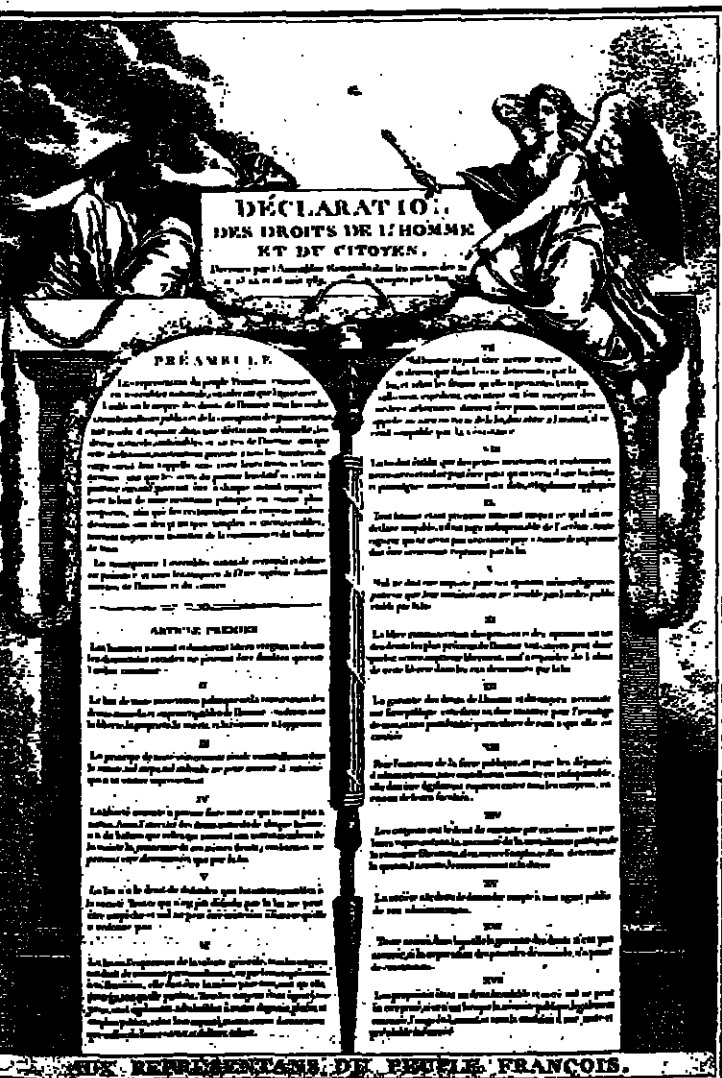
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Saudi Arabia to issue bonds to cover 25b riyal budget gap

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia will issue bonds for a second year in a row to cover a deficit caused by a fall in oil revenues, King Fahd said Monday.

In a decree outlining the annual budget, King Fahd said the kingdom would borrow 25 billion riyals (\$6.7 billion) to keep spending steady at 141 billion riyals (\$37.6 billion).

"So that the citizen can enjoy prosperity, the state often finds itself forced to cover the gap found in the budget no matter what its size, whether last year, which ends today, or the next," the king said in a statement issued with the decree.

The decree, carried by the Saudi Press Agency, projected total revenue for 1989 at 116 billion riyals (\$30.9 billion), 10

per cent higher than last year, but did not indicate what part of this would be made up by oil.

In last year's budget, oil revenues were projected at 74 billion riyals (\$19.5 billion), but economists put actual revenue at around \$16 billion.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has made a series of painful spending cuts each year since oil revenues peaked at \$101 billion in 1981.

In November, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to limit oil production to raise prices, but economists believe enforcing the

agreement will be an uphill battle.

"It is hoped that this matter will end in stability in oil producing countries," the king said in the budget statement.

"Losses inflicted on OPEC members give an idea that it resulted from chaos... for this, adherence to the set ceiling is a basic rule which must organise matters," he said.

A statement by Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer said spending on development projects, including improvement of facilities at religious sites in Mecca and Medina and the upgrading of national defence, would be 48 billion riyals (\$12.8 billion).

Another 20 billion riyals (\$5.3 billion) would be spent on

maintenance projects, while lending agencies would receive six billion riyals (\$1.6 billion).

Bankers said the bond programme, which began last June, has enabled the government to tap into a large pool of funds in the local market.

Since the bonds are only offered to local banks and institutions, they have allowed the government to avoid dealing with foreign creditors.

Many Saudis frown on foreign lenders because Islamic law forbids the charging of interest.

The government recently permitted commercial banks to resell the bonds to private Saudi investors, but bankers say few such secondary deals have been made pending the publication of trading procedures.

Peruvian inflation hits 1722% in 1988

LIMA (AP) — Consumer prices rose 1,722 per cent in 1988, the government said Monday, the highest single-year mark in Peru's recent history.

Economists said the rampant inflation is tied to a steep recession that has debilitated the economy following growth of 8.5 per cent in 1986 and 6.7 per cent in a year later.

The growing crisis has been marked by shortages of basic foods, such as milk, sugar and bread and by increasing discontent among Peru's 21 million people.

Political analysts say the flagging economy coupled with a relentless insurgency by leftist guerrillas are undermining Peru's frail democracy.

Economy Minister Carlos Rivas said last week that early estimates indicate the economy shrunk 8.4 per cent in 1988.

He said a major cause of the record-setting inflation was government deficit spending to finance consumer subsidies. Independent economists estimated the deficit at 12 per cent of the gross national product — the total of all the goods and services produced within the country.

The figure of 158.3 per cent set in 1985 had been the highest yearly inflation rate since Peru began keeping such records in 1920.

The National Statistics Institute said consumer prices in December increased 40.9 per cent, compared with the previous

month, to push annual inflation to its all-time high mark.

President Alan Garcia, a centre-left populist, took office in July 1985 and used Peru's dollar reserves to subsidise imports needed for Peru's economic recovery.

The programme fuelled two years of growth while cutting inflation to a decade-low mark of 63 per cent in 1986. Inflation was 114.5 per cent in 1987.

Consumer prices surged early in 1988 after the reserves ran out and the government maintained its programme of subsidies through heavy deficit spending, economists said.

Officials said the food shortages developed late last year when the government temporarily

ran out of hard currency to purchase imports of basic foods. Rivas said recent austerity measures aimed at reducing the subsidies will cut inflation in half this year.

But the respected economics analysis firm Apoyo predicted inflation this year would hit at least 6,000 per cent.

Many independent economists predict price increases this year will push inflation to levels similar to Bolivia's hyperinflation of more than 20,000 per cent in the mid-1980s.

The institute said it measured a family shopping basket of 169 goods and services to arrive at the price changes. Those changes are based on the month or year previous with 1979 equal to 100 per cent.

Panel urges less controls on computer sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and its allies should take a more focused and flexible approach to export control on computers, especially since the existing curbs have become virtually unenforceable, a scientific advisory panel has said.

It urged that the administration concentrate instead on striving — together with its NATO allies and Japan — to control leakage to the Soviet bloc of military valuable supercomputers and the most advanced computer manufacturing processes.

"The United States cannot afford to be complacent about its computer technology strengths or base export control decisions

on an assumption of an invincible lead," said the National Research Council report, prepared at the request of the State Department.

It noted that "as the computer market becomes increasingly global, U.S. firms face increasing foreign competition, mostly from firms operating with fewer export barriers under the same Cocom guidelines."

Cocom is the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, comprised of the United States, Japan and all NATO countries except Iceland.

The report contended that "tighter U.S. controls may reflect the absence of a fully effective multilateral control effort, but

there is a risk that in the computer area, the United States may lack the proverbial barn door after the horse has escaped."

The report concluded that "current technological progress will make controls harder to enforce, and technological and market developments combine to make a case for a more focused and flexible control process."

Increasingly powerful computer hardware and software, it said, are in effect becoming commodities in world trade.

"Commodity products are available in high volume and at low cost, they may be available in multiple and substitutable forms, and they tend to be small and

easy to transport," it said. "These attributes make commodities vital to the economic health of the computer industry, but also effectively uncontrollable."

The report recommended that the United States publish a list of computer technologies that are commodities. The government should then promulgate a policy exempting such commodities from export controls, at least for trade among Cocom nations.

In particular, the report cited advanced chip fabrication lines, supercomputers and other high-performance computing systems, computer-aided design systems, and magnetic and magneto-optical materials.

Dubai expects free zone to attract \$200m

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (R) — Dubai expects its free trade zone to attract \$200 million in 1989 because of the Gulf war ceasefire, the zone's chairman said Monday.

"The end of the Iran-Iraq war has boosted prospects for investments in the zone and foreign firms have started to stream in after a long hesitation," Sultan Ibn Sulayem told reporters.

Some \$600 million have so far been invested in the zone — the Gulf's largest — since it was established in 1985.

He said the zone had received 54 applications for projects since a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in the eight-year war took effect in August. Many of the ships attacked during the conflict were hit off Dubai.

"The war was a major obstacle for development of our zone but now we are experiencing an investment onslaught, especially by American and Japanese businessmen," Ibn Sulayem said.

Japan is expected to set up one of its biggest projects in the Middle East this month, he said, but gave no details.

Iraq cuts oil exports through Jordan, Turkey

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraq has cut oil exports by 90,000 barrels a day in accordance with its new OPEC production quota of 2.64 million barrels a day, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Monday.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said that as of Jan. 1 Iraq had stopped trucking 65,000 barrels a day to Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba and another 25,000 barrels a day through Turkey.

Iraq currently exports 1.5 million barrels a day through a pipeline across Turkey to Mediterranean ports, and another 500,000 barrels a day through a pipeline across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea port of Yanbu, the agency said.

Iraq's quota, matching that of Iran, was set by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at a meeting in Vienna in November.

Previously Iran had a cap of 2.4 million barrels a day, compared to 1.5 million barrels a day for Iraq, which was heavily exceeding its quota.

The former Gulf war enemies badly need increased oil revenues in order to rebuild economies shattered by eight years of hostilities.

Child labour helps increase Portugal's important exports

BRAGA, Portugal (AP) — Portugal is trying to clamp down on child labour, a practice that could involve hundreds of thousands of children but which has helped to boost the nation's critically important exports.

Trade unions, however, claim that successive governments, happy to see exports booming, have acted half-heartedly in efforts to restrain child labour. They continue to call on authorities and the influential Roman Catholic Church to take more effective action.

In June, the centre-right Social Democratic government increased fines for companies caught employing children and began new methods of factory inspection.

But the country's main trade union, the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (CGTP), estimates that firms nationwide still employ some 200,000 children below the minimum working ages of 16 for full-time work and 14 for lighter jobs.

Portugal's textile producers account for about one-third of the country's exports and are among the main exploiters of children, the CGTP says. Other sectors are footwear, hotels, catering and construction.

Many foreign companies farm out manufacturing subcontracts to small, flexible Portuguese factories that boast low labour costs. The Portuguese minimum wage, at 30,000 escudos (\$204) a month, is the lowest in Western Europe. But wages paid to children are lower still.

Fourteen-year-old Antonio Aquino left school at 12 to work in a ceramics factory. When it closed six months ago, the new owners took him on, and at 13 he became a metalworker.

Considered an adult for purposes of his work, he worked, unsupervised, for nine hours a day. Considered a child for payroll purposes, he was paid the equivalent of just over \$100 a month.

In mid-November, Aquino lost most his right arm while operat-

ing an electric saw.

While many children working in family businesses are not mistreated, the CGTP says thousands work unsupervised and without safety equipment in small sweatshops more reminiscent of South East Asia than West Europe.

In Braga, one of several industrial towns that nestle among the rolling vineyards of northern Portugal, Archbishop Eurico Nogueira, says the child labour problem stems from "a question of parental mentality."

"The church denounces the problem at every opportunity but child labour is not found in larger factories and thus is not serious enough for the church to launch an organised campaign," he said.

Vitor Do Vale, the CGTP child labour expert in Braga, thinks factory owners are more to blame than parents.

"Sure, it's a problem of parental mentality, but these families' income levels are low," he said. "It's the factory owners who are earning — so who are the criminals?"

"For parents, it's often a question of morality — should they send their kids out to work or to steal?" added Do Vale. He said the church should use its strong influence to change parents' attitudes.

Some 30 kilometres from Braga, in a hillside cemetery, a small, gray tombstone reads "here lies Francisco Jose Da Silva." The boy died 11 days before his 14th birthday, crushed to death by an elevator while working in a local sock factory.

"I found him a job because he was doing badly at school, skipping lessons, disappearing to the beach," said his father, Joaquim Da Silva. "I thought working would keep him off the streets, out of trouble, away from drugs."

The archbishop said authorities should raise the school-leaving age from 12 to 16 for all children. Currently, only children who started school after September 1987 have to stay through 16.

The CGTP's Do Vale claims corruption is widespread among

factory inspectors, and that honest inspectors are often refused entry into factories.

"Employers often hide kids in the bathroom or send them out the back door when we arrive," said Leonardo De Matos, the nation's chief inspector. "As inspectors are usually known in their area, we've started to rotate inspectors, to keep a surprise factor."

"Factories often prefer to pay (a fine of) 80,000 escudos (\$544) for hampering inspectors, than 70,000 escudos (\$476) for each child found working," said Do Vale.

In October and November 1987, when employers faced penalties of between \$30 and \$70 for each child labourer, 2,186 factories were cited for employing children in the Braga region. In the same months last year, after the increase in penalties, the number of factories cited fell to 73. But the CGTP believes corruption in enforcing child labour laws is still widespread.

In the first 11 months of last year, the government identified 275 firms nationwide that employed children. But the CGTP lists over 240 factories in the Braga area alone.

Dozens of small, rock-breaking yards along a winding road that traces the ruggedly beautiful Douro river south of the Braga area employ school children part-time.

But Joao and Manuel, both 12, are full-time apprentices, and they chisel away at huge slabs of locally quarried granite. The stones are exported for sidewalks in Germany and Switzerland.

Local businessmen are reluctant to talk about the issue. Antonio Brochado, president of the Industrial Association of the Minho — the area around Braga — declined to comment.

Portugal is not a party to the 1974 International Labour Organisation convention aimed at abolishing child labour. Only 35 states, including seven of the 12 EC countries, have ratified the document.

Barring unforeseen circumstances

Kuwait predicts oil prices stabilising above \$15 a barrel near end of '89

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's oil minister said Tuesday he expected oil prices to firm to \$15 to \$18 a barrel by the end of 1989 before stabilising for the next two or three years.

Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, speaking to reporters accompanying British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on a nine-day Gulf tour, said he was optimistic OPEC members would honour quotas agreed at talks in Vienna in November.

But he admitted that what he called unforeseen circumstances could throw his price projection out.

"One can never be sure because anything could go wrong — a country or two would not abide by the quota," he said.

"Hopefully this would not happen... then one would be confident that by the end of the year prices would be in the range of \$15 to \$18," Sheikh Ali said.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed at Vienna to limit total output to 18.5 million barrels per day (b/d), for the first six months of 1989 and gave each of the 13 members an individual quota.

Sheikh Ali said oil consumption had recently been rising by a much greater percentage than expected and he expected Gulf crude prices to firm to within \$1 or \$2 of North Sea levels.

"I would hope that we would maintain levels around \$18 for a considerable time in the future, for the next two or three years, and then whatever increases (happened after that) would have to be extremely gradual taking

into account only such things as inflation," he added.

Sheikh Ali said OPEC had learned that the large price increases of the past had been to its own disadvantage.

"It would be to the benefit of the organisation and its member countries to see moderate prices in the 1990s," Sheikh Ali said, adding that it was in OPEC's interest to abide by the agreed quota levels.

"Hopefully, people learn from past experience," he said.

Sheikh Ali said the Vienna meeting had solved a number of

problems, but he added: "We still face some difficulties in OPEC. A lot of countries are today producing way below capacity..."

The OPEC pact that came into effect Jan. 1 aimed to slash production by about four million b/d from December levels. It replaced a 1986 pact which was renewed three times and widely flouted.

Members of OPEC, which has a benchmark price of \$18 per barrel, have not released official figures on current output or on the size of cutbacks planned for January.

West German youths see no future in farming

AURINGEN, West Germany (AP) — Keeping youth down on the farm in an affluent society has always been difficult. In West Germany it's become almost impossible because farming has a reputation as a "no future" occupation, farmers say.

West Germany, among Europe's richest countries with one of the highest standards of living in the world, is facing the harsh reality of losing one of its most productive sectors, the traditional family farm.

In 1949, the year West Germany was founded, there were 1,646,751 farms, many of them tiny by U.S. standards, agricul-

ture ministry statistician Peter Neuling says.

"By the end of 1987 there were only 382,800 farms still operating full time, with another 280,000 part-time farmers who held other jobs," Neuling told the Associated Press.

Densely populated and heavily industrialised West Germany is about the size of Oregon and has a population of 61.7 million.

The average full-time farm operation is 27.5 hectares (68.75 acres) of land, with part-time farmers working an average of 5.4 hectares (13.5 acres), Neuling told the AP in a teletype interview.

Most of the farms that have shut down have done so because of the country's flourishing industry, "which is a sign our economy is strong," Neuling says.

The entire agricultural sector is affected, although big farms have been and continue to fare better than the small family farms, which the big operators have either been buying up or leasing to increase production.

Life-long farmers such as 64-year-old Alfred Kunze say the trend is killing off a rich family farming tradition important to the country's self-sufficiency.

"We're not going to have any-one following in our footsteps,

there won't be any experienced young to take over," Kunze told the AP in an interview at his home in Auringen about 50 kilometres west of Frankfurt.

But because of overproduction of farm products throughout Europe, farming has become an increasingly risky business, Kunze admits.

"My son wanted to be a farmer, but I told him to study another business just in case," Kunze said of his 36-year-old son Hubert.

Hubert Kunze is now a computer specialist, who normally works an eight-hour day. "Farmers can't count on eight-hour

days," the elder Kunze said.

As a member of the European Community (EC), West Germany must import farm products from other member countries to help balance out industry export sales to them.

The result is that prices for West German farm products are driven down, leaving its farmers with shrinking pocketbooks, says the 64-year-old Kunze, who still oversees and works a 3,500-tree fruit farm in central Hesse state.

West German taxes for socialised medicine, retirement, unemployment and other social benefits also make farming more expensive than in many other Western European countries, where labour and overhead are generally cheaper.

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Announces that a three month training course in Spanish will start on 9.1.89 and that registration for the course will open Jan. 2, 1989. The centre offers training at all levels at the rate of three classes a week: On Saturdays, Mondays, and Wednesdays.

For more information please call the Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman - First Circle, Tel: 624049

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FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

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- French language courses for adults (all levels)
- Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris)
- Arabic language courses for foreigners
- Music courses (piano - flute - guitar - saxophone)
- Arts courses for women (art of flower making, silk painting, ceramics, painting on glass).

The registration will last on Sunday 8 January 1989 and the courses will start on Monday 9 January till 26 March 1989.

For more information, please contact the library of the centre, telephone 636445, Amman.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday Jan. 3, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	476.0	478.0	French franc	78.9	79.3
Pound Sterling	865.8	870.1	Japanese yen (for 100)	383.0	384.9
Deutschmark	269.8	271.1	Dutch guilder	238.8	240.0
Swiss franc	318.4	320.0	Swedish crown	78.1	78.5
			Italian lira (for 100)	36.6	36.8
			Belgian franc (for 10)	128.3	128.9

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stocks ended their first day of trading in 1989 on a lacklustre note, with declines in almost all sections. The All Ordinaries index fell 6.5 to 1,480.8.

TOKYO — Market closed. The Nikkei index closed at a record 30,159.00 on Dec. 28.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended the first trading day of 1989 with the Hang Seng index breaking through the key chart point of 2,700. It closed up 19.25 at 2,706.69.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed generally lower after thin and lacklustre trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 4.39 to 1,034.23.

BOMBAY — Exchange closed to let brokers attend the inauguration of a training institute and the launching of a national equity index by Finance Minister Shankar Rao Chavan. Trading resumes Wednesday.

FRANKFURT — Strong demand by foreign and domestic institutional investors pushed shares to their highest levels since 1987 amid active trading. The DAX index rose 24.32 to 1,359.33.

ZURICH — The market ended with broad gains in lively trading. Attention centred on blue chips and registered shares of well-known Swiss firms. The Swiss index rose 12.1 to 954.6.

PARIS — Prices extended gains in late business amid general optimism about the French economy and corporate profitability.

LONDON — Shares eased but were well above early lows in sluggish post-holiday business. A steep opening fall on Wall Street was widely expected and had little impact on afternoon trading. By 1600 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 1.178.1.

NEW YORK — Stocks stayed lower in mid-morning trading, with blue chips weighing on the market. Programme selling earned in the session also depressed stocks. The Dow was down 14 at 2,554.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Soviet team leads yacht race

TOKYO (AP) — Soviet twins Tyniste and Toomas Tynou, the 1988 Olympic 470 class yachting silver medalists, beat a Japanese yacht Tuesday in the first of three races in the 1989 Toshiba international yacht match series. The Soviet yacht could clinch the title Wednesday with another victory over Tomoki Tsutsumi and Shiroshi Yasuda, the 1988 Japan champions. The yachts raced a 4-kilometre course on Sagami Bay off Sagami, 60 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. In Tuesday's semifinals, the Soviet yacht beat the Japanese yacht of Mitsunori Nara and Yu Itoh with two victories against no defeats and the Tsutsumi-Yasuda team beat Noboru Nakagawa and Taro Imamura of Japan 2-1. A total of seven yachts entered the four-day competition. Meanwhile, an overseas team of three yachts from Britain and Italy clinched the J24 class team title with a lead of 55-28 after four races.

Third seed beaten by unknown Finn

ADELAIDE (R) — Finland's Veli Paloheimo, a tournament professional for only six months, crushed third-seeded Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia 6-1, 6-1 in the first round of the South Australian Open tennis tournament Tuesday. Zivojinovic, ranked 31 in the world, was the fourth seeded player to bow out in the opening round. Top seeds Andrei Chesnokov and Australian Darren Cahill were beaten Monday and Australian John Frawley, seeded six, went down 7-5, 6-7, 6-4 to 17-year-old Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic Tuesday.

Tambay upsets Peugeot dominance

PARIS (R) — French driver Patrick Tambay, in his Mitsubishi, upset Peugeot's virtual monopoly of the Paris-Dakar rally when he won the fifth timed stage of the marathon race. Tambay overcame daunting sand dunes on the 582-km stage between the Niger towns of Dirkou and Termit to beat Peugeot drivers Ari Vatanen of Finland and Belgian Jacky Ickx into second and third places respectively. But the two Peugeot drivers, with the huge back-up service provided by the French car-makers, remained more than one hour ahead of their nearest rival in the overall standings.

Italian soccer fan in coma after clash

BRESCIA (AP) — A 15-year-old soccer fan was hospitalized in a coma Monday after a fight between supporters of rival teams. Davide Fornaroli suffered broken bones Saturday in the violence between supporters of rival teams from Cremona and Brescia, said doctors at the civil hospital in this northern city. The 20-minute fight erupted after a championship match when fans of Brescia, which lost 2-0, attacked a train carrying the fans of visiting Cremona team. The Brescia supporters hurled stones at the train, smashing the windows of several cars, railway officials said. Two people were taken into custody.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

CAUGHT IN THE END

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 4
♥ 8 6 5 4
♦ J 10 6
♣ K 8 5

EAST
♠ A 10 7 5 3
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ K 7
♣ K 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 9 2
♥ A Q 9 5 4
♦ 9
♣ 9

The bidding:
South 1♥ North 2♥ East 3♥ South 4♥ West Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

If all you need is one of two finesses to succeed, you should bring home your contract three times out of four. But there are other lines nearly as good which could give you a tremendous psychological lift if you were to prevail.

This hand is from the recent Summer North American Championships in Salt Lake City. North-South reached four hearts after a competitive auction, and West led the ace of spades. When dummy

came down, it seemed that the contract would hinge on finding either red king with East. But declarer, Jim Mahaffey of Florida, decided on a different tack.

In effect, West was employed at trick one. He cashed his two black aces, then continued with a club to dummy's king. Had declarer elected to take two finesses, his correct play to the third trick would have been to lead to the nine of trumps. That way, if the finesse lost, the eight of hearts would be an entry to the table to look for the king of diamonds.

However, declarer opted for another line. He discarded a diamond on the king of clubs, then took two more diamond pitches on the top spades. A club ruff stripped the black suits from the North-South hands, then declarer cashed the ace of trumps. Had the king dropped, not only would the contract have been cold, but declarer would have earned crowing rights over his opponents. When his majesty did not appear, declarer, edged with a trump, when West won the trick, he was employed and the contract could be claimed. Had East won the trick, declarer would have had to fall back on the diamond finesse for his contract.



'Soaring through the air'

Konrad and Monika Klein during their recent clinching of the World Rock 'n' Roll Championship, at the Rudi Sedlmeyer Hall in Munich. 57 couples from 17 countries competed, while the Germans and the Italians between them took all of the first five places. The Germans also won the team event for the fifth time in succession, with the Italians coming second (Photo INL)

NHL STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — National Hockey League standings after games played Sunday:

Wales Conference Patrick Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New York Rangers	12	8	3	27	94	81
Pittsburgh Penguins	12	10	0	24	105	101
Washington Capitals	11	10	2	24	84	83
New Jersey Devils	8	11	4	20	74	87
Philadelphia Flyers	9	15	1	19	92	98
New York Islanders	7	13	2	16	68	88

Adams Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal Canadiens	14	9	3	31	100	86
Boston Bruins	10	8	5	25	81	69
Buffalo Sabres	19	12	2	22	87	100
Quebec Nordiques	8	13	2	18	84	104
Hartford Whalers	8	12	1	17	71	80

Campbell Conference Norris Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit Red Wings	12	7	4	28	92	86
Toronto Maple Leafs	11	12	2	23	86	94
St. Louis Blues	8	9	3	19	66	76
Chicago Blackhawks	6	14	5	16	101	118
Minnesota North Stars	5	13	4	14	68	93

Smythe Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary Flames	15	4	3	33	97	56
Los Angeles Kings	15	8	0	30	123	96
Edmonton Oilers	13	7	3	29	99	85
Vancouver Canucks	11	12	4	26	88	82
Winnipeg Jets	9	7	3	21	79	76

College Superbowls

Notre Dame reigns supreme

NEW YORK (R) — Notre Dame completed an unbeaten season and cemented their claim as the best college football team in the country by decisively beating West Virginia 34-21 in the Fiesta Bowl Monday.

Notre Dame, ranked first in the nation entering the game, rolled to their 12th win of the season behind the brilliant all-around play of quarterback Tony Rice and a spirited, swarming defense.

The West Virginia Mountaineers, who came to the Fiesta Bowl at Tempe, Arizona, ranked third, lost for the first time after 11 victories.

The lack of a post-season college football tournament has often left the question of who's number one a matter of debate as traditional end of season "Bowl" games don't always offer a decisive match-up.

Notre Dame, however, left no doubt about their supremacy by dispatching West Virginia with ease.

"I'm very delighted for the players, they played great," coach Lou Holtz said after his

down to Grants Bell.

West Virginia came into the game averaging 42.9 points a game but had not met a team of Notre Dame's calibre.

In other major games, eighth-ranked UCLA beat Arkansas 17-3 in the Cotton Bowl behind the throwing of quarterback Troy Aikman.

Aikman, considered the best quarterback coming out of college this year, completed 19 of 27 passes for 172 yards and a touchdown. UCLA ended the season 10-2, as did Arkansas who were ranked ninth going into the game at Dallas.

Michigan, ranked 11th, scored a come-from-behind 22-14 upset victory over fifth-ranked Southern California in the Rose Bowl at Pasadena, California.

Sophomore Leroy Hoard, who gained 142 yards on 19 carries, scored twice from one yard out in the fourth quarter to lift Michigan, 9-2-1, to victory. USC finished at 10-2.

Syracuse, boosted by the rushing of Robert Drummond, beat Louisiana State 23-10 in the hall of fame bowl at Tampa, Florida. Drummond gained 122

yards and scored twice. Syracuse, rated 18th, climbed to 10-2. Sixteenth-ranked LSU fell to 8-4. Clemson's defence came through at the end to preserve a 13-6 win over 10th-ranked Oklahoma in the Citrus Bowl at Orlando, Florida.

Clemson, ranked 13th, held off a final drive that took the Sooners to the within 13 yards of a touchdown with 12 seconds left. The win gave Clemson a 10-2 record. Oklahoma, who will be placed on probation for recruiting violations effective at the start of next season, finished at 9-3.

Miami, ranked number two, had hoped a convincing win over sixth-ranked Nebraska in the Orange Bowl coupled with a Notre Dame defeat would enable them to repeat as college champions.

Following Notre Dame's win, Miami was playing for pride and the Hurricanes took out their frustration on Nebraska by taking a one-sided 23-3 victory before a home crowd.

Miami finished at 11-1, while Nebraska suffered their second defeat in 13 games.

Czech hockey star seeks asylum

CALGARY (AP) — A 17-year-old Czechoslovak hockey player who wants to play in the National Hockey League missed his team's flight home and was believed to be seeking asylum, Canadian hockey officials said.

After Nedved, the offensive star of an international hockey tournament, disappeared Monday from a home where he had been staying and missed the flight that took his colleagues back to Czechoslovakia.

"He is currently in the hands of the immigration people," Ted Taylor, organizer of the Mac's Midget Hockey Tournament, said Monday night. "I'm assuming he maybe has asked for it (asylum) by now."

Immigration authorities could not immediately be reached for comment, and a spokesman for the external affairs department in Ottawa said he had no information about Nedved.

Taylor said he had no idea whether the 75-kilogram forward will be allowed to remain in Canada. But he has had several calls from members of Calgary's strong Czechoslovak community offering help.

Nedved said in a weekend interview that he wanted to return to Canada as a visitor but would "prefer to play here." He led the tournament in scoring and the team from his town of Litvinov won the event.

"I would say he was the rave of the tournament. Everybody was talking about him," Taylor said. In a weekend interview, Nedved said he hoped to play for the Czechoslovak national team and the NHL.

"I don't plan that far ahead," he said with a smile. "But I'll be able to give you a better answer in five years."

Nedved's father played on

Czechoslovakia's national team as did an older brother before being drafted into the army. That fate would await Peter in Czechoslovakia.

Nedved's team had been in Calgary since Dec. 10, and he was staying in a Southwest Calgary home along with a Canadian player. He was last seen by his hosts just after midnight Sunday.

Scots take basketball title

LONDON (AP) — Livingston of Scotland, led by former American college stars Lewis Young and Tom Collier, beat Leverkusen of West Germany 71-62 Monday night for the championship of the 12th Annual World Invitational Club Basketball Tournament.

Young, who played at Gardner Webb, got all of his game-high 18 points on 3-point shots, while Collier, from Alcorn State, added 17 points and 15 rebounds.

As it did when it upset the Soviet Union Sunday night's semifinal, Livingston jumped to a big lead, going up 13-0 after four minutes.

Leverkusen, which won the tournament two years ago and upset Aris Thessalonika of Greece to reach the final, pulled to 49-43 before Vic Fleming and Young hit 3-pointers and the 6-foot-9 Collier slammed in a dunk over 7-2 Gunther Belanke, drawing a foul in the process.

The Soviet Union took third place by beating Thessalonika 98-71. The Soviets suited just six players after releasing the CSKA Moscow club members, who face Thessalonika in a European Cup match in Greece Thursday.

The leading scorer was Soviet captain Valdemars Chomicovous with 32 points, including eight 3-pointers.

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Gay Dutch soccer team starts up

THE HAGUE (R) — A homosexuals-only football team has been set up in the Netherlands, aiming to give members self-confidence and break down anti-homosexual sentiment in sport.

Organiser Gerrard Van Reijssen, a 37-year-old soccer enthusiast who recently set up the amateur Dutch team, FC Gays, said he hoped it would keep gays playing football, whereas they might otherwise drop out of the game.

"In the locker-room, in the team canteen and bar, homosexuality is talked about very negatively. It makes it difficult to come out as a homosexual and keep playing," Van Reijssen told Reuters.

"Most of the time, if someone is gay, they drop out of soccer because of the atmosphere," said Van Reijssen, a former player on the Hague's Westerkwartier amateur team.

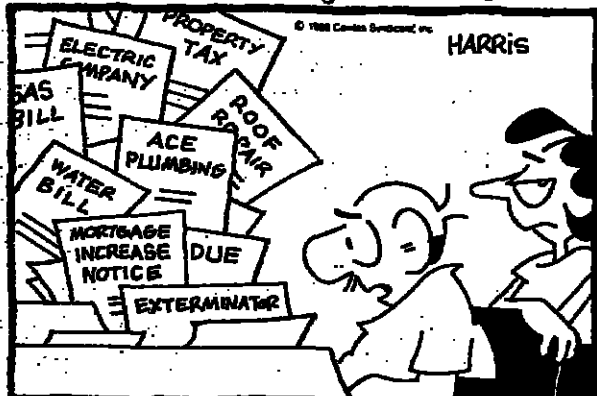
"We hope to confront clubs with the existence of gays and try to gain broader acceptance for homosexuals," said Van Reijssen.

About a fifth of the men who have joined his team played on existing Dutch teams and dropped out when they became too old to play in the junior league. Some still play on club teams but are not openly homosexual, he said.

He said he concealed his own homosexuality for a long time when he played on Westerkwartier and was surprised that his team-mates accepted him with little difficulty when he finally made his sexual preference known.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

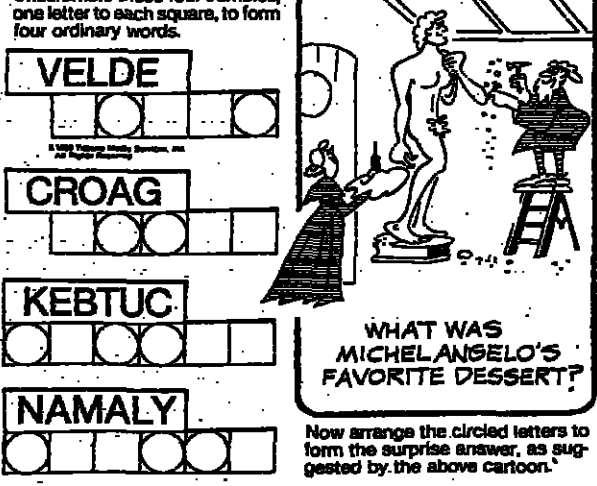


"I'm not sure who needs financial help more, the homeless or the homeowners."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



WHAT WAS MICHELANGELO'S FAVORITE DESSERT?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

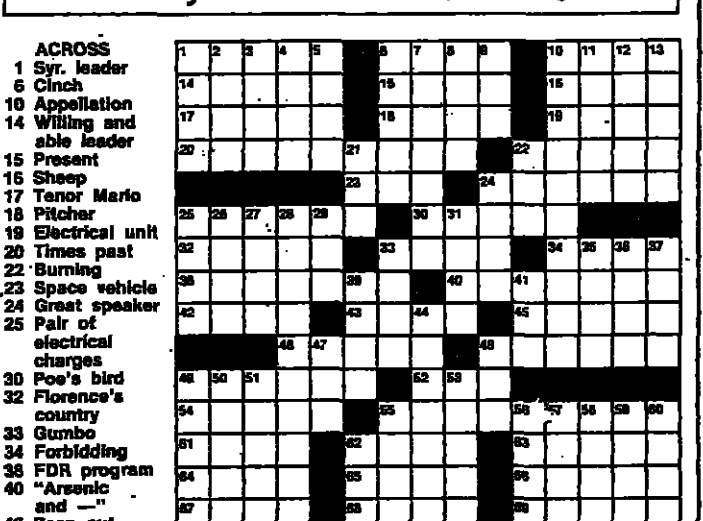
Answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: GLORY LINER DABBLE FORGET

Answer: What her attempts at cooking brought him—TO A BOIL

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrington



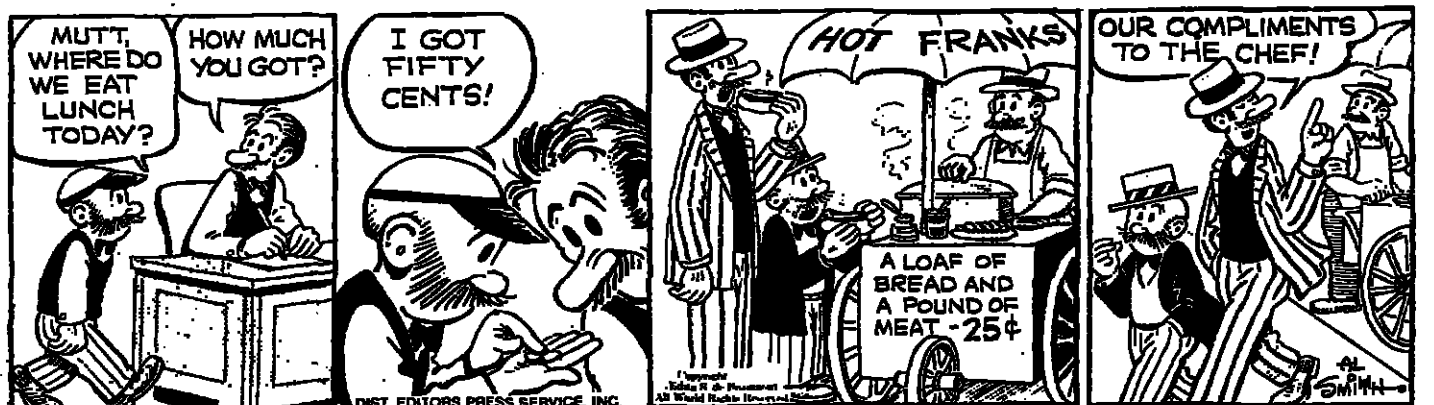
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ACROSS		DOWN	
1	Syr. leader	7	Big Apple
6	Clinch	8	War god
10	Appellation	9	Each
14	Writing and able leader	10	Modern
15	Present	11	Expect
16	Sheep	12	Underground
17	Tenor Mario	13	Chemical
18	Pitcher	14	Compound
19	Electrical unit	21	Owing
20	Times past	22	Exile
21	Burning	24	Egg-shaped
22	Space vehicle	25	Ball sound
24	Great speaker	26	Flowering shrub
25	Pair of electrical charges	27	Handless clumsily
30	Poe's bird	28	Andrew Jackson
32	Florence's country	29	Lithium
33	Gumbo	31	In a line
34	Forbidding	32	Wide jar
35	FDR program	33	Great review
40	"Arsenic and —"	34	Freezes
42	Deep cut	35	Thaw
43	Incaudescence	36	Grew old
45	Celebrate	41	Joanne —
46	Perfect		
48	Most		
49	Impudent		
50	Seasoned		
52	Deer		
54	Toots		
55	Veterans		
61	Ray of films		
62	Mingled with		
63	Elf		
64	So-so		
65	Floating bomb		
66	Derogatory		
67	Salver		
68	Roman road		
69	Water mammal		

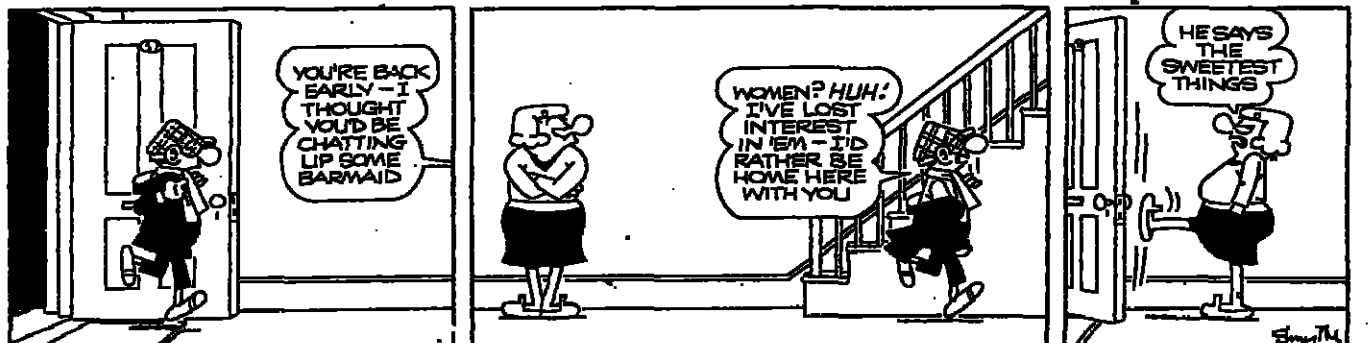
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Soviet ethnic unrest spreads to Georgia

MOSCOW (R) — Nationalists in Soviet Georgia staged factory sit-ins, demonstrations and hunger strikes in protest at Moscow-drafted political reforms which they feared would limit local sovereignty, Pravda said Tuesday.

The Communist Party newspaper's account of the November disturbances was the latest evidence of ethnic turbulence rocking the country from the Baltic republics in the northwest to the southern regions of Transcaucasia.

In Georgia, a mountainous Black Sea republic of 5.3 million people next to the troubled republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, nationalists organised protests in an attempt to prevent changes to the Soviet constitution which were adopted on Dec. 1.

Pravda gave no estimate of the numbers involved, but Western visitors to Tbilisi said they had witnessed a demonstration there in November with up to 120,000 people taking part.

Activists staged a mass hunger strike at government headquarters in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, which lasted until Nov. 29 and was so serious that more than 100 people including adolescents needed hospital treatment, Pravda said.

"If the hunger strike showed the readiness of young people to take actions in the name of Per-

estroika, it also showed the inhumanity and adventurism of the organisers and the barbarities of which they are capable," Pravda said.

It said nationalists had shouted slogans such as "Georgia for the Georgians," "let blood be spilled," "we will answer terror with terror" and "put an end to demographic expansion."

The last slogan appeared to refer to the fears of some Georgians that Russians and other minorities represent a cultural threat to the native people, who made up only 68.8 per cent of the republic's population in the 1979 census.

Although Georgians successfully resisted an attempt by the Kremlin in 1978 to replace Georgian as the republic's official language, intellectuals and students have continued to voice fears of creeping Russification in their homeland.

In November, Pravda said, nationalist leaders had "incited disorders, called for civil disobedience and urged people to hand in their Communist Party and Communist Youth League

membership cards en masse. "They screamed threats at leaders of the party and local government councils, they called for premeditated strikes and they demanded Georgia's secession from the Soviet Union."

One demonstrator had climbed onto the roof of government headquarters in Tbilisi and desecrated the flag of Soviet Georgia, and others had staged sit-in strikes causing considerable material losses, Pravda said.

Fresh quake hits Armenia

A fresh tremor rocked the earthquake-hit Armenian city of Leninakan Saturday, but caused only minor damage to buildings, an Armenian government official said Tuesday.

"There were no casualties," Grachik Vartanyan, head of the government's administrative affairs department said, dismissing a report by a journalist at the Armenian news agency Armenpress that six people died.

Vartanyan said the tremor, measuring seven points on the 12-point Soviet scale, was one of a series of aftershocks which hit the area following a massive quake Dec. 7 which killed at least 25,000 people across Soviet Armenia.

The police into the guesthouse was very peaceful. No force was used," he said. He said Nanking police had arrested one Ghanian, and were questioning three other students over a clash which left 13 injured at Hehai university in the city on Christmas Eve.

The clash, which has sparked 10 days of racial tension, began with a row over the admission of two Chinese women to an African student dance.

Mamah Gobo Bio, first secretary at the Benin embassy in Peking, said he would demand an explanation for the torture allegations from the Chinese foreign ministry Tuesday. It could not be immediately confirmed whether a meeting between the foreign ministry and African diplomats had taken place.

The diplomat quoted students in Nanking as saying that at least seven African students had been detained by police.

In the Peking march, students at the city's language institute marched peacefully for about 10 minutes carrying banners reading "do not insult Chinese women."

They alleged a Chinese woman had been seriously injured in an incident on New Year's Eve.



Desmond Tutu

Tutu's son is arrested

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Police handcuffed the son of Desmond Tutu and took him into custody Tuesday for allegedly failing to appear in court for traffic violations.

Trevor Tutu, 32, the eldest of the four children of the South African Anglican Archbishop who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his anti-apartheid campaigning, was handcuffed after he appeared in court to face charges of contravening the Civil Aviation Act.

He was because of remarks he allegedly made to police Dec. 31 when they told him not to leave his luggage unattended at Jan Smuts Airport. Police have not said what remarks he may have made.

Police have warned South Africans not to leave parcels and luggage unattended in public places because of a bombing campaign by anti-government guerrillas which has killed 35 people and injured more than 660 in the past 2½ years.

The civil aviation case was postponed until Feb. 15.

As they left the courthouse, police handcuffed Tutu and arrested him on charges of failing to appear in court for three traffic violations. As they placed him in a car to take him to Johannesburg magistrate's court, his father and companion Helen Rhodes shouted at the police while Tutu gave her instructions on who to call on his behalf.

The younger Tutu was taken to police headquarters for investigation of other possible charges. He told reporters he intended to ask the court to be released and to be protected from possible police violence.

Tamils unite for elections

COLOMBO (AP) — A moderate Tamil political party and three rebel groups will field common candidates in parliamentary elections scheduled for Feb. 15, a Tamil leader announced Tuesday.

Appapillai Amirthalingam, head of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front, said he had signed an agreement with the three organisations in the north and eastern provinces, where Tamils represent a majority.

The alliance does not include the largest and most militant Tamil group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who are waging a 5-year-old insurgency for an independent state. More than 8,500 people have been killed.

Tiger militants have asked Tamils not to participate in the general elections.

Tamils, who are mostly Hin-

du, make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Militant Tamils claim they are denied employment, education and culture by the Sinhalese majority, who comprise 75 per cent of the population.

The predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese control the nation's government and military.

Amirthalingam said the pact involved the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front.

He said it would ensure they fielded common candidates for 31 parliamentary seats at stake in the northeastern province.

The Tamil United Liberation Front is the only Tamil-dominated party in the national parliament. Its members were renounced by militant Tamil groups

for being too moderate in the cause for a Tamil homeland.

National elections were called for Feb. 15 by former President Junius R. Jayawardene, who left office Tuesday after 11 years in power. Voters will elect 225 members to parliament for six-year terms.

Parliamentary elections were not held in 1983, when a state of emergency was declared to combat the Tamil rebellion.

The ruling United National Party will run alone for all the 225 seats, and every other political party will participate as part of an alliance.

The United National Party's candidate, Ranasinghe Premadasa, won in the presidential elections Dec. 19, defeating two other candidates.

He took the oath of office Tuesday in a Buddhist ceremony.

Rio ship owners blame passengers for disaster

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The owners of a pleasure boat which sank on New Year's Eve, killing at least 51 Brazilians and foreign tourists and leaving about 30 missing, blamed panic-stricken passengers Monday for the disaster.

"The disaster was caused by passengers' panic, the strong southwest winds and the high waves. Everything indicates that passengers all ran to one side of the boat," Francisco Chagas, lawyer for the owners of the Bateau Mouche IV, told reporters.

Reading a statement from owner Avelino Rivera, Chagas said the flat-bottomed boat had been officially inspected and was in perfect order.

But survivors accused the owners of overcrowding the boat and neglecting passenger safety.

Rosaria Leidner, 36, who leapt from the sinking boat's top deck with her West German husband Karlheinz, said she had pleaded with the crew for life jackets as the boat set out to sea.

"I told them there were too many people and asked them for life jackets," she said Monday, adding that the crew told her

safety equipment was stowed below deck and there was no need to worry.

The official death toll Monday stood at 51. After seven hours work, divers had not retrieved any of the estimated 30 bodies still trapped in the boat's danceroom.

Chagas said marine police who intercepted the boat for a spot check made sure it was not overloaded before allowing it to set off again. The boat was licensed to carry 150 people and only 124 were aboard, he said.

But survivors insisted at least 150 partygoers were on the ship when it foundered in four metre seas.

Sheriff Irineu Barroso said he was investigating the possibility that police were bribed into letting the boat carry excess passengers.

Barroso said he was also checking reports that yacht owners sailed right by screaming passengers pleading for help in the rough waters after the boat capsized.

If true, he said those responsible would be charged with failing to assist victims in distress.

Francisco Garcia, owner of the Itatiaia Turismo Tour Agency that operated the boat, told reporters before accompanying police for questioning that he personally had checked tickets before the boat left.

Itatiaia sold only 101 tickets. Another 15 children at most were on board and a few company officials, he said.

But he acknowledged he had an incomplete passenger list as some foreign tourists had bought tickets at their hotels.

"The company is not guilty for what happened," he added.

About 40 people are known to have survived the wreck. They said the boat was carrying Americans, Italians, French, West Germans, Portuguese, Danes and Norwegians, although most passengers were Brazilians.

A spokesman for the Danish consulate in Rio said all eight Danish passengers survived. The Norwegian consulate also said both Norwegian passengers known to be aboard were alive.

Distraught survivors queued up at a Rio police station Monday to give eye-witness versions of the boat sinking.

Chinese-African feud rages

PEKING (R) — About 200 Chinese students, protesting on a Peking campus Tuesday in the latest incident of racial tension, accused African students of molesting Chinese women.

The protest followed accusations by African students in Nanking that Chinese police had applied electric cattle prods to the genitals and faces of more than 30 of them during a raid on a guesthouse last Saturday.

A spokesman for the Jiangsu provincial government in Nanking denied by telephone Tuesday that force was used in the raid. "As far as I know, the entry of

the police into the guesthouse was very peaceful. No force was used," he said.

He said Nanking police had arrested one Ghanian, and were questioning three other students over a clash which left 13 injured at Hehai university in the city on Christmas Eve.

The clash, which has sparked 10 days of racial tension, began with a row over the admission of two Chinese women to an African student dance.

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They alleged a Chinese woman had been seriously injured in an incident on New Year's Eve.

Soviets deny survivor reports

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union Tuesday denied Western reports that 17 survivors of the Armenian quake had been found recently in a wrecked bakery, and said the last sole survivors had been pulled from the ruins 10 days ago.

The dispatch from the official news agency TASS followed French and British broadcast reports that said 17 people had survived in the devastated bakery at Spitak for more than three weeks by eating grain and melted snow.

"The last living person was removed by rescuers from the ruins of buildings and structures in Spitak 10 days ago," TASS quoted Norik Muradyan, chief of rescue operations in the city, as saying in a telephone interview.

The Western press reports that supposedly 17 living people were found in Spitak on the 24th day after the natural disaster have no foundation," Muradyan was quoted as telling TASS.

In Paris, Europe 1 Radio quoted a nurse for the French humanitarian group Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) as saying the 17 survivors were found in a bread factory near Spitak, a city in northwestern Armenia that was virtually destroyed.

The nurse recently told a journalist at the station that the survivors were apparently found Wednesday, 21 days after the quake, and the report reached Yerevan Saturday. The station had an earlier version of the



Mother Theresa offers comfort to children of Kiravakan at a hospital in Yerevan, while on a visit to earthquake-struck Soviet Armenia

report quoting the nurse as saying they were found Saturday.

The male nurse spoke to Europe 1 on condition of anonymity.

The London commercial radio station LBC reported that French medics said the 17 were found Saturday, 24 days after the quake rocked northwestern Armenia. It also said they stayed alive by eating grain and drinking melted snow.

It was not possible to immediately resolve the discrepancy over when the survivors supposedly were found.

Regional government officials, relief groups, and press organisations in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, also told the Associated Press they knew of no such survivors.

The quake killed an estimated

25,000 people in Soviet Armenia. Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister, Vardkes Artsruny, said Dec. 23 that authorities were calling off the search because they did not expect to find more survivors.

Meanwhile, an Armenian newspaper has printed an alleged threat by Armenian militants to wage terrorist attacks with U.S.-made Stinger missiles if their leaders are freed from jail. Activists said the threat was a fake.

The purported letter, published by the Armenian Communist Party Daily Kommunist, demands the immediate release of members of the Karabakh committee, a group that has led an 11-month-old campaign for the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Overloaded ferry claims 67 lives in Caribbean

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A ferry overloaded with New Year's travellers sank off the Caribbean coast after it ran out of fuel, leaving 67 people dead and 14 missing, authorities have said. They said 46 people survived.

The ferry Justo Rufino Barrios II sank Sunday in Amatique Bay, said Capt. Anibal Giron Arreola, second-in-command at the Puerto Barrios naval base.

Giron Arreola said the ferry, ran out of fuel midway on a 24-kilometre run from the town of Livingston, across the bay, to Puerto Barrios, and sank after a naval patrol boat tried to tow it to port.

Giron Arreola said late Monday that 67 people had drowned, 14 were unaccounted for and 46 survived. He earlier said that 120 people were aboard. He did not explain the discrepancy.

Gorbachev warns of the year of the snake

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has warned Soviet citizens not to expect miracles in 1989, as barren shop shelves and astrology predictions herald another hard year in the building of communism.

Year IV of "Perestroika" — Gorbachev's drive to refashion Soviet economy and society — will bring the first national multi-candidate elections in decades and more streamlining in the economy.

But at the dawn of the year, as Moscow shivered in freezing cold, such common items as detergent, bath soap, chickens, coffee, toothpaste, sugar, yeast and candy were hard to find or completely absent from state-run stores for the public.

On Sunday, the Kremlin announced an export ban on goods ranging from caviar to children's shoes, an apparent attempt to board chronically scarce Soviet-made products for Soviet consumers.

In his televised New Year's Eve message, Gorbachev warned his 285 million countrymen that improvements in their lives would be gradual at best in the coming months, and that there would be no miracles.

"It is wrong to think, comrades, that somebody will solve our problems for us and that everything around us will change at the wave of a magic wand, with the chime of the clock on New Year's Eve," he said.

"We see now that it is essential to act with greater resolve," said Gorbachev, Soviet leader since March 1985.

"We are not awaiting and we are not promising manna from heaven, knowing well that the burden of unresolved issues is heavy, and our road is difficult."

For some, that message may have seemed distressingly like Gorbachev's forecast at the beginning of 1988, when he said

"immense and hard work" lay ahead in his drive for economic change.

The multibillion-ruble (multibillion-dollar) cost of rebuilding areas of northwestern Armenia shattered by the Dec. 7 earthquake also will cause more shortages in the economy, particularly in building materials, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has warned.

On Jan. 1, all 48,000 state-run enterprises in the nation were required to operate on "self-accounting" with their own revenues and without government subsidies that often helped them meet costs and payroll.

The change is a mixed blessing for Soviet managers, some of whom felt initiative constrained under top-heavy centralised control while others valued the freedom from decision-making responsibilities.

Once forbidden goal The managers now are free



Mikhail Gorbachev

to negotiate contracts and pursue the once-forbidden goal of making a profit. They also, in theory, may face bankruptcy if they fail.

The nation's 130 million workers, too, can theoretically

earn more if they produce more. But they also can be laid off now if their factories decide to cut labour costs.

According to Radio Moscow, enterprises that account for 60 per cent of Soviet industrial output have been on "self-accounting" since January 1988. The jury is still out, however, on just what they have gained.

One Soviet economist, Nikolai Shmelov, has said government bureaucrats still exercise effective control over some branches of the economy by issuing 80 per cent and more of their orders they must fill.

In the political sphere, Soviet voters in March will elect members of a new council of people's deputies that in turn will choose members of an ennobled national parliament and more powerful president.

The sole candidate for the new presidential post is widely expected to be the 57-year-old

Gorbachev, posing further questions about how democratic the Kremlin's "democratisation" process can or will be.

However, at lower levels, Soviet voters will be able to choose between more than one candidate.

Year of the snake

1989 will also bring uncertainty in international relations, as the Kremlin seeks a working relationship with a new U.S. president and decides whether to complete its now-frozen military withdrawal from Afghanistan in time to meet a U.N.-brokered Feb. 15 deadline.

Shortly before Gorbachev went on television with his New Year's message, the official news agency TASS transmitted New Year's greetings to English-language subscribers along with the image of a snake, a reminder that according to oriental astrology, 1989 is the year of the snake.

Suspect in massacre given safe-conduct

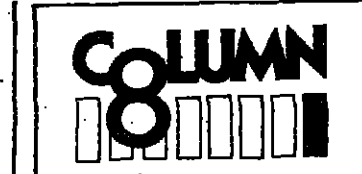
PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Franck Romain, the former Port-au-Prince mayor blamed for the September church massacre of 12 people, has fled Haiti after receiving a safe-conduct pass from the military government. The information ministry said Romain left Haiti Saturday after spending three months in the Dominican embassy. He was given political asylum in the embassy after the Sept. 17 military coup that toppled the government of Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy and put Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril in power. The government statement Sunday did not say where Romain had gone, but he was believed to be in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. The former mayor was given a government pass assuring his safe departure at the request of the Dominican government, the information ministry said.

Hirohito gets more transfusions

TOKYO (AP) — Doctors have given Emperor Hirohito another blood transfusion to help combat his anemia and improve his overall condition, palace officials said Tuesday. The 87-year-old Japanese monarch suffered from a fever of 37.4 a early Tuesday, but his condition was otherwise unchanged, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. Recent press reports quoting anonymous palace sources have said doctors attending the emperor believe his kidneys have weakened due to his prolonged illness. A major Japanese daily, the Asahi Shimbun, Tuesday said Hirohito's physicians were concerned about the risk of uremia, an accumulation of toxic substances in the blood due to the kidney's failure to eliminate them.

Chinese police crack heroin case

PEKING (AP) — Chinese police have arrested at least nine people and detained five others in a rare case of heroin trafficking, an official daily said Tuesday. The China Daily said about 160 people, including state employees working in local justice and tax departments, were involved in the drug operation being investigated in Baofu city in northern China's Shaanxi province. It said 7 kilograms of heroin worth more than \$189,000 had been seized. The daily said the heroin came from Minxin county in Gansu province, 300 kilometres to the west of Baofu. Police also uncovered 12 locations where the drugs was being made and sold.



Dolphins save surfer from shark attack

SYDNEY (R) — Dolphins saved the life of an Australian teenage surfer Tuesday by chasing off a shark attacking him. The shark took a large chunk out of the unnamed 17-year-old's surfboard in its first attack off Ballina on the New South Wales coast before severely tearing his abdomen, an ambulance service spokesman told journalists. After the second attack a group of dolphins chased the shark away, the youth said later. He managed to swim ashore and is in satisfactory condition in hospital, the spokesman said.

Awards bring no relief for the pious

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Monday announced the winner of a nationwide search for the country's best-kept public toilets. The unofficial Toilets Foundation, set up last June, said 12 toilets had been found to meet its stringent standards of cleanliness and comfort. "Our purpose is to establish modern toilet-care habits and a toilet technology in line with Western standards," foundation spokesman Baha Tunalioglu told the Anatolian news agency. Winners of the annual awards included petrol stations, municipalities and just one hotel. "No hospitals, mosques or schools were found worthy of the award," Tunalioglu added.

'Beatrice' fails to start name trend

LONDON (AP) — James, Alice and Charlotte were the most popular first names chosen by parents who announced the birth of a child in the Times of London in 1988. Beatrice, the name picked for the latest princess, failed to start a trend, the paper said. "The royal birth on Aug. 8 seems to have had no effect on the commoners' choice, at least among Times-reading parents," Helen Beard, the paper's social editor, wrote of the princess born to the Duke and Duchess of York. The annual lists of most popular names have become a favourite feature in the newspaper at this time each year.

Today's special — roast cashbox

HAVERFORDWEST (R) — A forgetful chef cooked his most expensive dish when he did his cash box in an oven overnight — and turned it on the next day. Albert Grabbam hid the money because he was too tired to put it away after a busy New Year's eve. Next morning the smell of burning notes wafted through the New House Hotel in Haverfordwest, West Wales, when he put the oven on for lunch. "The plastic cash box was cooked to a turn, along with more than £200 (\$360). The notes had burned to a cinder, the box had melted and the coins were stuck fast," Grabbam said Monday. "Now I am having to put up with jokes from customers, like 'hot money' and 'crisp bread'."

Martin Sheen wins court ruling

CARSON CITY, Nevada (AP) — Actor Martin Sheen has won a court ruling overturning a requirement that he post a \$5,000 bond aimed at stopping a protest trespass at a nuclear test site. Sheen, active in the Movement Against Nuclear Testing, was forced to post the "peace bond" after saying on national television he would "hopelessly commit civil disobedience" at the Nevada test site. The supreme court, reversing a district judge's order, said prosecutors had conceded that civil disobedience was not a crime in Nevada. "We conclude that (Sheen's) remarks did not indicate an intention to commit a criminal offence in this state," the court added in holding that the "peace bond" statute does not apply in such cases.

'Ronald' obedient, 'Mikhail' stubborn

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet couple who named their twins after President Ronald Reagan and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev say Ronald is a mild baby but Mikhail is obstinate. "According to the parents, their characters are different. Ronald is more mild and obedient, and Mikhail is stubborn and persistent," the newspaper Socialistskaya Industriya said. The twins were born to Galina and Vyacheslav Sakharov of Moscow Dec. 8 last year. They received their names in honour of the treaty which Reagan and Gorbachev signed in Washington then to abolish medium-range nuclear missiles. Both Ronald and Mikhail can walk a little and know how to say "mama" and "papa," the newspaper said.